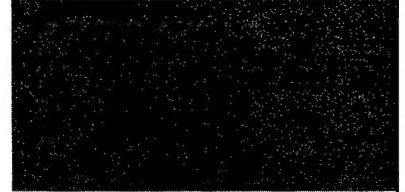


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26 June 1978



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TRANSLATIONS ON USSR MILITARY AFFAIRS

No. 1359



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FIGHTER ACE VIEWS ON TRAINING DESCRIBED

Kiev RABOCHAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Feb 78 p 4

[Article by Lt Col V. Kudryavtsev written around an interview with Lt Col Aleksandr Vasil'yevich Smirnov, military pilot-sniper and winner of the order "For Service to the Motherland in the USSR Armed Forces" Third Degree: "For a Clear Sky"]

[Text] The military airfield was full of customary sounds. The planes had set up a din, deafening the surroundings with the jet thunder. In the parking area persons were scurrying around in their pretake-off jobs, and fuel trucks ducked about. It appeared as though there was no order at all. But in fact each aviator was precisely carrying out his duties. And as soon as the aviation flag was raised on the flagpole of the flight command post [SKP], everything immediately came to a halt. To the second flight preparations were completed on the supersonic fighters.

The flight operation officer, having informed the pilots of the particular features in carrying out the missions, dashed away in a jeep to his citadel called the SKP where everything could be seen and heard for hundreds of miles (of course, not without the aid of electronic devices). From here he, like a conductor, controlled a complicated system including the men and equipment on the ground and the crews in the air.

Picking up speed along the runway, a pair of fighters took off rapidly. Behind it came another. The flight operation officer made marks on the plan chart and turning to the navigator on duty, said:

"Increase the loudness on the guidance channel and let us listen how this battle ends. These are aces who are 'fighting', the regiment commander and the sniper pilot Lt Col Smirnov."

On that very day I also met Aleksandr Vasil'yevich, a fighter pilot of the highest class. I asked him:

"How did the dogfight go?"

"It went normally," was his brief answer, because persons were constantly coming up to him and he immediately settled various questions. And only in the hut where Smirnov took off his special suit was there any opportunity to talk. And of course the first words were about the just-ended "dog-fight."

"I was sitting in the confined cockpit of the missile-carrying aircraft leaning forward, almost touching my forehead to the sight tube as it is easier to stand the g-load in this manner. With every maneuver gravity pressed on your shoulders, head and arms. This was a customary and familiar feeling, but still each time you have to concentrate as the g-load must be endured and the controls must not be released. Otherwise you pop out of the turn and lose your advantage and will be immediately 'shot down.' You feel your body, like a rod, bend in the sharp turns and your muscles respond precisely to any deviation of the machine. It is important to know the reserve of one's strength. For this reason one must not throw the aircraft into the crucial attack. It is essential to wait until that very moment when the 'enemy' wavers and then act when you are dead certain."

"The 'enemy' aircraft, having sharply changed the flight trajectory, headed into the sun. It was the moment I was waiting for. I turned a little to the side in order not to blind myself. This was a tactical stratagem. Suddenly I saw a black spot (this is how an aircraft looks against the bright sun) flying somewhere below. Having switched on the afterburner, I went to the attack. It would seem that nothing would stop me from coming out at the 'enemy's' tail and 'shoot him down' with a burst from the gun sight aiming point camera. But the flight operation officer, like a referee in the ring, halted the dogfight with an authoritative voice, saying: 'Return to the point. Time is up.' And that was it."

Later in the analysis the regimental commander praised Smirnov and called his attack an avenging sword. I listened to Aleksandr Vasil'yevich and thought that here the young pilots had someone to learn from. And he had many under his charge as he was the squadron commander.

"There is the unwritten law of aviation that success in the air is forged on the ground. You certainly understand this as the squadron commander."

"Yes, here is an instance. Sr Lt (I will not give his last name), having performed a rather simple exercise, was heading back to the point. He merely had to come in for a landing. The situation in the air forced the pilot to extend his third turn. And correspondingly there was a change in the sequence in manipulating the cockpit equipment. The wheels, due to the great distance from the airport, had to be lowered only on the final approach. This happens in aviation. But the pilot, in being involved in searching for the field, did not watch the signal system, and the red lights indicating that the wheels were up were flashing. And the aircraft was rapidly approaching the landing strip. Just one more minute.... Only due to the vigilance of the flight operation officer did the senior lieutenant succeed in making a second circle. There was merely an accident.

Certainly the pilots firmly believe that you must be vigilant, think, and do not rely just on automatic habits."

"And of course this episode was a lesson for them."

"Undoubtedly. Since then each preliminary training has ended in the squadron by work on an electronic simulator. Generally the pilots are not mad about this device. In the first place, a complete picture of the flight is still not obtained on it, and secondly, not only an instructor watches your every action, but also comrades. It is not very pleasant to receive a tongue-lashing. And this happens. You merely have to make a mistake and immediately there is laughter. I realized all of this and for this reason I constantly repeated: 'What is there to be ashamed of? A mistake was made in the simulator, correct it, and feel that mistakes in the air have been avoided.'

"Recently these lieutenants at school were concerned only for their personal training. They went off on flights and bonded up on aviation sciences. But a fighting squadron is quite a different matter. Now each of them has become a commander. And it is essential not merely to fly, as this is not enough for a military pilot. It is essential to be able to fight and be victorious. Life itself has forced the pilots to view themselves differently and understand that now they are not merely smart fellows, but rather an intelligent, well rounded soldier to whom a great deal has been entrusted and on whom it is possible to rely in the most complex situation of a dog-fight. At present you would not recognize the squadron. The pilots have really shaped up. They have learned to intercept targets from the ground level to the ceiling, and have mastered instrument piloting in the clouds. No matter there is an insignia with the number 'three' on their jackets. A good start has already been made for second class."

"Please tell us about your first serious testing?"

"It started with the moving of our squadron to the airfield of the Chernigov Higher Air Force Pilots School imeni Leninskiy Komsomol. I admit that I was excited although externally I tried to be calm. Would the pilots stand up? This was certainly their first examination. And what an examination! You could not make a mistake. The tactical and air situation was as close as possible to actual combat. The slightest error could nullify the efforts of the entire collective.

"Our MIGs took off in pairs. Precisely, without any trouble the squadron assembled in combat formation, and headed to the range. Considering the situation, I energetically altered the flight altitude and sharply turned to the side, conducting an active struggle against the 'enemy' air defense weapons. The 'enemy' missile batteries had been skillfully camouflaged in the brush on the edge of a pine grove. Seemingly nothing could stop the artillery troops from carrying out their combat mission. But my wingmen immediately spotted them. A pair of fighters came in at treetop level and then flashed upwards. A combat turn and a flame flashed under the wings.

"The missile strike was precise. Several 'units' were turned upside down. Then another pair appeared and again a sniper attack. The Commander-in-Chief of the Air Force, Chief Mar Avn P. S. Kutakhov who was observing the assault strikes of our squadron on the range, did not refrain from praise and radioed thanks to us. This inspired the pilots. All the subsequent missions were carried out with an evaluation of 'excellent.'

"Later on there were dogfights. They were conducted by everyone, both experienced pilots and those who were still young.

"This is how we fly and this is how we learn. Now each pilot is ready to carry out the combat mission. And this means that the air frontiers of the USSR which have been entrusted to our defense are reliably protected."

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MULTINATIONAL CREW OF BALTIC FLEET CRUISER DESCRIBED

Kiev RABOCHAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 May 78 p 4

[Article by B. Bablyuk from the Twice Red Banner Baltic Fleet: "Baltic Sailors"]

[Text] When you meet a sailor on whose peakless cap gleam in gold the words "Red Banner Baltic Fleet," inevitably images come to mind of the revolutionary Baltic sailors. Of those who in black pea-jackets with machinegun belts crossed over them went boldly to storm the Winter Palace. Those who in the severe days of the Great Patriotic War were models of immortal heroism.

At present the sons and grandsons of the famous sailors are serving on the ships of the Twice Red Banner Baltic Fleet. And they are adding to their military traditions.

...It is calm on the Baltic and the sea is still. But what about on the ships?

The cruiser "Oktyabr'skaya Revolyutsiya," in cutting through the glassy sea, is traveling rapidly. And all of a sudden: "Training combat alert!" Sailor's boots are heard on the deck, and the reports immediately are coming in: "Battle station...ready for combat! Battle station...ready! Battle station..."

The gunners of the cruiser fire without a miss. This was affirmed by the results of the competitions held for weapon training: The crew of "Oktyabr'skaya Revolyutsiya" won first place in the Navy and won the rotating prize of the Commander-in-Chief of the Navy."

The gunners of the ship so conducted these firings that a majority of the subunits received titles of excellent. And the command granted short leaves as a commendation to Sr Sn Ivan Mikhaylyuk and Sn Vladimir Yagol'nitskiy for prize firing. They recently visited their home.

The victory in the competitions for the prize of the Commander-in-Chief of the Navy is far from the only achievement of the crew recently. It won first place in the all-Army competition for exemplary upkeep of unit services and administration, and completed a regular long ocean cruise with a high evaluation.

Among the numerous exhibits in the cruiser's cabin of military glory, each person notices a rhombus which has been cut out of the decking of the battleship "Gangut." This is bordered by two ribbons from the sailor caps. On one ribbon is stamped "Gangut," and on the other "Oktyabr'skaya Revolyutsiya."

In the Navy the heroic feat of the sailors from the "Gangut" is well known. They were among the first to give their loyalty to the revolution, they were among the first to storm the Winter Palace and they defended the victories of October on the fronts of the Civil War. In 1925, the battleship "Gangut" was given the name "Oktyabr'skaya Revolyutsiya" for revolutionary achievements.

During the years of the Patriotic War, in defending the cradle of October, the guns of the battleship destroyed 16 enemy aircraft, three tank columns and several mechanized columns, three heavy artillery batteries and a major enemy ammunition dump. For these heroic deeds the flag of the battleship was embellished with the order of the Red Banner.

But a ship, like people, grows old and is retired, passing its name on to young successors. The cruiser "Oktyabr'skaya Revolyutsiya," along with the glorious name, has taken over and carefully safeguards the traditions of its military predecessor.

We found fellows from the Ukraine literally at all the battle stations of the enormous naval ship.

Sr Sn Ivan Mikhaylyuk came to the Baltic from the L'vov area. There he worked at the Mobile Mechanized [Construction] Column-239 after completing the Zhidachov Secondary Vocational-Technical School. Turret gunner Sn Vladimir Yagol'nitskiy is from Nikolayevskaya Oblast. Before service he was a drilling machine operator at a plant. Among the gunners of the cruiser are Viktor Bilko from the Krivoy Rog Metallurgical Plant imeni V. I. Lenin, the former Nikolayev shipbuilder Sergey Korolev, the driver from Chernovtsy Ivan Repchuk, and others.

Anatoliy Drapatovskiy was a landlubber and he worked as a fitter in Zhitomir. He first met the sea here, on the Baltic. He acquired a new specialty for himself as a turbine mechanic. And the sea has become home for him.

Next to Anatoliy is the battle station of his friend Yuriy Varuk. He also is a turbine mechanic.

The wind whips in your face. And for the cruiser's signalman there is no place to hide. Because his battle station is here, in the wind. And the fellow from Poltava Aleksandr Pechnikov, Anatoliy Shkoda from the Cherkassy village of Gel'myazov, and Vladimir Ismagilov, a recent construction worker from Krymskaya Oblast have grown accustomed to these winds. They are all outstanding signalmen of the outstanding naval ship.

Sons of 30 nationalities of our nation are presently serving on the cruiser "Oktyabr'skaya Revolyutsiya." They all represent a single monolithic crew with a common aim for all tersely formulated in a line of the USSR Constitution: "To defend the socialist fatherland is the sacred duty of each Soviet citizen."

10272
CSO: 1801

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF URAL MILITARY DISTRICT FIRST DEPUTY COMMANDER

Sverdlovsk URAL in Russian No 2, Feb 78 signed to press 5 Dec 77 pp 5-20

Article by Lt Gen Konstantin Likhosherst: "A School Named the Army"]

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General Konstantin Yur'yevich Likhosherst devoted almost 40 to service in the ranks of the Soviet Armed Forces. As a lieutenant and graduate of a military school, he took part in the unforgettable parade of our troops on Red Square in Moscow on 7 November 1941. He spent two and a half years fighting with the legendary "katyushas." He was wounded twice and badly shell-shocked. After recovery, he was transferred to tube artillery. He liberated the lands of the Ukraine and Poland and attacked Berlin. He ended the war in Czechoslovakia as a Guards major and the wearer of many combat orders and medals. In June 1945, he marched once again over the paving blocks of the capital's Red Square in the historic Victory Parade.

In the postwar period K. Yu. Likhosherst completed the Military Academy imeni M. V. Frunze and the Military Academy of the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces imeni K. Ye. Voroshilov and was in important command posts. Since 1973, Lieutenant General K. Yu. Likhosherst has been first deputy commander of the Ural Red Banner Military District.

As If There Was No Parting...

I donned the army overcoat in the fall of the distant 1940 when I became a cadet in the Odessa Artillery School imeni M. V. Frunze. It was in Odessa, on the Square of the October Revolution, that I took part in a ceremonial march for the first time in my life in a military parade in honor of the 23d anniversary of the Great October. I marched, afraid to spoil the irreproachably even rank of cadets. I marched across the former Kulikov Field in which, in the combat year of 1917, the Odessa Red Guards buried their comrades who fell in the first battles for Soviet power. Legendary Potomkinites and Kotovites looked at us young people from the rostrums.

It was also May Day of 1941. After the May Day parade, the cadet exams were taken and then we began to prepare to go to summer camps for live firings.

And we went, but...not to peacetime camps.

In the evening of 21 June 1941, our cadet platoon went on garrison guard. Not long before dawn, I took over one of the outside posts near the district headquarters building to guard it and I soon heard an ominous, unusual whistling. Death-dealing bombs were falling on the city. Odessa had been subjected to a mass raid by fascist aviation in the very first minutes of Hitlerite Germany's treacherous attack on the Soviet Union.

With the formation of the Odessa Defensive Area, our school and the fighter detachment attached to it from one of the city's rayons received the fourth, southern sector which ran along the sea's shore from Otrada to Sukhoy Liman, including Srednyy Fontan and Bol'shoy Fontan. We were to construct three defensive zones consisting of foxholes and antitank and antipersonnel obstacles. Work began at dawn. We worked until late. Short breaks were used for training rather than for rest.

At the same time, a composite battalion consisting of three companies and two batteries--122- and 203-millimeter guns--was organized from among the cadets. On the night of 28-29 July, on order of the city defense headquarters, we occupied our sector and prepared for forthcoming battles. Each one awaited the meeting with the enemy in order to rain down all the might of small-arms and artillery fire on him.

But we did not have the occasion to go into battle then. On 31 July an order was received for the immediate evacuation of the school to deep in the country. The explanation was brief: The front needs not only valiant fighters in the ranks, but also qualified cadres of middle-level command personnel.

All materiel was turned over to the city garrison and we set off to the east in dismounted formation (railroad communications with Odessa had already been cut) with our carbines and knapsacks on our backs. In two days of travel we covered 120 kilometers and loaded on a troop train in burning Nikolayev.

We moved for about 10 days with long delays. The fascists bombed railroad stations which were filled to overflowing with troop and civilian trains. We left the cars and went out to repair the tracks and remove the obstructions. By that time, our collar tabs were bare; we had removed the letters "OAU" [Odessa Artillery School] and the artillery insignia from them. This was done to keep the movement secret.

It became calmer beyond the Volga. We went past Chapayev places. We rode though Ufa and Chelyabinsk and then turned toward Sverdlovsk. Soon the order to unload arrived. We expected to see mountains and thick forests, but none of this was around, and for long years I remembered the Urals as a small worker settlement which stretched along the banks of an amazingly calm river.

Three days after our arrival at the site of our new disposition area regular lessons were begun in the school. We were allotted several temporary wooden barracks which had been intended for seasonal workers. The premises had to be prepared for winter. Double-tiered bunks were built in the barracks, stoves were reset, and classrooms were created for each training platoon. Classrooms for special disciplines were set up in the main building.

The school received tremendous assistance from the party raykom, the rayispolkom, and party and trade union organizations of local enterprises. One of the plants placed at our disposal a spacious and light club which had just been completed. Other enterprises helped with construction materials. Sverdlovsk, Chelyabinsk, and other Ural plants allotted equipment for the training classrooms. We saw that our concerns became the concerns of hundreds and thousands of Uralites. And this was at a time when everyone around us was occupied by matters much more important, when the young and the old worked for days on the filling of direct orders for the front.

The main slogan of the workers in the rear was: "Everything for the front, everything for victory!" It also became the combat slogan of cadets, commanders, and teachers. We tried to operate as at the front on lessons in tactical training and service of the piece, we learned the secrets of firing from direct-fire positions, and learned to conduct fire from guns of great power at point-blank range. Immediately behind the commanders who had been in battle, we lay in fragile, small trenches and let the roaring "Voroshilovets" prime movers pass over us--this is how we simulated being rolled over by tanks....

The last state examination was taken at the end of a snowy Ural October. Our second course was graduated early. We were photographed to remember the entire battery. On the central square of the village in front of the memorial to V. I. Lenin, a general formation took place at which the order of the commander of the Ural Military District concerning the awarding of the initial commander's rank of "lieutenant" to us was read.

We marched to the station to the march, "The Slav's Farewell." Girls looked at us and at our red bars on black collar tabs: they had never seen so many newly-made lieutenants on the street of their village at one time.

The troop train hurried toward Moscow. Goodbye, Urals! Hello, front!...

Almost a third of a century passed. I had completed my service in the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany for the second time. The time to go to the Soviet Union approached. What will be my new assignment, where? And then my orders in my hands--to the Urals. I had left this kray in the severe year of 1941 as a clean-shaven lieutenant, and I am returning to the district which gave me my passage to a commander's life as a general. I am going to the post of its first deputy commander.

A third of a century. A long time.... But the more I thought of the new meeting with the Urals, the more often I caught myself thinking: but it was as if there had never been a parting. For during all these years I lived,

in essence, inseparably linked with it--the strong territory of the fatherland, with its specially tempered people.

Many of the Uralites and Siberians had an enviable fate in the last war, the most terrible war which our people had ever endured: they did not know the meaning of retreat. And I shared this combat fortune with them. I received my baptism of fire in victorious offensive battles. Furthermore, I went into them immediately as a Guardsman.

In the school, they trained us to be commanders of firing platoons and battery headquarters platoons of high-powered guns but I went into battle having under my command the most awesome equipment of that time. Here is how it happened.

After the November parade on Red Square in Moscow we, a group of graduates of the Odessa Artillery School who had completed it in the Urals, were informed that we had been selected for the formation of special subunits and would master an absolutely new type of weapon. They turned out to be the famous "katyushas." True, officially they were named a little more strongly --"guards mortars," and all the newly created battalions and regiments equipped with rocket artillery for volley fire received the title of "Guards" along with the established number.

Our 113th Separate Rocket Launcher Battalion fired its first volleys against the aggressors who had broken through to Khimki. We participated in the general artillery preparation for troops of the Western Front, immediately after which the new, turning stage in the battle for Moscow began. Units of the Soviet Army, replenished with fresh Ural and Siberian divisions and brigades, launched a powerful counteroffensive and drove the fascist hordes from the walls of the capital.

I also felt the vital closeness with the Urals during all the postwar years. Being outside the motherland, in the units which are performing their difficult service in front of the border posts, it was with special satisfaction that I received the young soldiers who had arrived from the Ural Military District. They were the sons of those in whom all frontline fighters had instilled deep respect and military love as the best servicemen. And the sons remained true to the glory of their fathers. They served with honor, selflessly, and joined the ranks of the experts in combat and political training, rated specialists, and rated sportsmen ahead of the others. And here I had the occasion not simply to serve again in the oldest and most tremendous military district in the country, but also to have personal responsibility for the training and indoctrination of an entire contingent of troops, located in large and small garrisons, to consolidate its former good fame and achieve new fame, to see that henceforth, too, it will be said of the alumni of the Ural Military District everywhere and anywhere that they are the best soldiers in the country.

It did not take me long to become familiar with my new location. My feeling from the first days was as if I had returned to my own family. These feelings

caused not only recollections of the concluding period in cadet training in the cantonment near Sverdlovsk. They also arose from the fact that I suddenly found myself in a circle of long familiar and close people.

I knew the district commander, Colonel General N. K. Sil'chenko, and the district chief of staff, Major General M. A. Gareyev (now lieutenant general and chief of the military-scientific directorate of the General Staff, Armed Forces of the USSR) from back in 1947. We entered the Frunze Military Academy together, were students in the same course, and graduated together in 1950. I encountered many fellow servicemen from other districts in the headquarters and with the troops of the district, those whom I remembered as lieutenant colonels, majors, and even captains....

I now have several years of service in the Red Banner Ural Military District behind me. Many things have been altered. I will not list all the exercises which have been conducted. Many other important examinations have been passed. But I am especially pleased with the way our Ural military posts were transformed and became genuinely well organized. The training material base of the schools and units changed visibly for the better. It is becoming all-weather and stable for us, permitting us to work out successfully all the subjects of extremely difficult and saturated training programs, to conduct troop training effectively and with high quality, and to teach what is necessary in contemporary battle.

And in peaceful routine days, the Ural Military District remains the forge of military cadres for the Armed Forces of the Soviet Union. Its territory contains seven military schools (of them six higher) which train political officers, commanders of tank and motor vehicle subunits, navigator-engineers, and aviation technicians. In the majority of units the training of soldier-specialists is proceeding from year to year and from month to month. On completion of the training subunits they will become the main backbone of the privates and noncommissioned officers in the country's border districts and in the groups of forces, accomplishing their international duty in defending the entire commonwealth of socialist countries.

In short, our Red Banner district is one of the leading branches of the tremendous school called the army.

"The youths come to the soldier family," said L. I. Brezhnev at the 25th CPSU Congress, "not having gone through life's school. But when they return from the army they are already people who have passed through the school of endurance and discipline and received technical and professional knowledge and political training."

How to prepare oneself for training in this school, how to study and serve in it, which teacher-commanders are now developing from among the best of the army youth--I should like to discuss this in the main chapters of my notes.

And Who Taught Us To Shoot?

Military service.... Only from aside does it seem to be filled with romance and fascinating adventures. In fact, it is not all like that. If anyone, the children who were born and grew up in military families do not know of this by hearsay. Many of our burdens also befall their lot.

But nevertheless, how many sons of officers and generals--regulars or having recently gone into the reserves--select the path of their fathers on entering adult life! And we are rightly proud that in our army environment, along with other glorious traditions, a new one has already made itself known in full force long ago--the creation of special, military dynasties which are growing in number from year to year, which are genuinely strong, and which serve as examples for imitation.

At the front and in peacetime I had the occasion to serve with the sons of Marshals I. S. Konev, K. A. Meretskov, N. N. Voronov, L. A. Govorov, and V. D. Sokolovskiy. Many of them are still in formation today, are occupying important and responsible posts, and as formerly carry high the good names of their fathers.

But these dynasties were founded in the war years, at a special time. But today? And our times are just as rich with such examples.

On the eve of the 30th anniversary of the Victory I received the next issue of the journal OGONYEK. My attention was attracted by a small note under the heading, "Family Profession," the text of which followed a wartime photograph. I glanced at the signature: A. Ayrapetyan. Something familiar. Interestingly, isn't the note about by fellow serviceman of long ago, Grach Minasovich Ayrapetyan? About him, of course, about him!

"In this photo," wrote Grach Minasovich's younger son, Artem, "I found my father. Commander of the 1st Rifle Battalion, 1054th rifle regiment, 301st Rifle Division, 5th Shock Army, Major Grach Minasovich Ayrapetyan is standing on the tank at the rear part of the turret in the service cap and cape. I learned the details from him himself.

"His battalion ended the war at the walls of the Reich Chancellery and received the mission to move out in the direction of Treptov Park. Along the route of movement, at that very spot which is shown in the photograph, they met a column of our tanks. A spontaneous meeting took place. At this meeting, my father kept his word to his comrades in arms. He congratulated them on the great victory of our people in one of the most difficult wars in history. He remembers this day and this moment very well.

"My father, just as his comrades, had to travel a difficult path. Before the war Papa completed the Baku Combined Arms School. He was on the front line from the first day of the war to the last. The Caucasus, the Ukraine, Moldavia, Romania, Poland, Berlin....

He served in the Soviet Army for 30 years. He went into the reserves in 1972 in the rank of colonel. He was replaced by my older brother, Minas, a lieutenant in the Soviet Army. I, Artem, am a cadet in the Odessa Higher Artillery Command Order of Lenin School imeni M. V. Frunze. So it turns out that our family profession is the defense of the motherland. And we are very proud.

"Our grandfather was also a regular army man and went through three wars--the Civil, Finnish, and Great Patriotic Wars. He finished the latter in Prague...."

I believe that somehow there is no need to comment on this letter from the younger son of my long-time fellow officer and friend. I will say only one thing: I now consider both Minas and Artem (he is now a lieutenant) Ayrapetyanov to be continuers of my army biography: for they both joined the officer youth from my own Odessa Artillery School....

For a long time, I have followed the rule of personally receiving the graduates of the schools who have arrived at their first place of officer service. Meetings with the young officers are always joyous events. Here you seem to be transferred yourself to your commander youth, breaking out with lieutenant excitement, relating how you began, and what bumps you struck on your first steps. Then you listen to the newcomers and egg them on with questions--what stimulated you to enter the school, do you regret your chosen profession, will you be able to be loyal to it for long, long years? You carry away your first impressions on each arrival from their answers, and after six months or a year you try to learn during new meetings or from efficiency reports whether you were correct in your assumptions. If this is not so, you decide how to support the one who has stumbled and what assistance to give him....

At the end of the summer of 1970, when I was again serving in the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, I received the next group of young officers who had arrived from the Soviet Union after completing the military schools. One of them, on reporting, stated:

"Lieutenant Kazarinov, graduate of the Kazan' Higher Tank Command Red Banner School imeni the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Tatar ASSR," and he added, not without pride: "This same school was completed by my father before the war and then by two of his brothers...."

"Kazarinov, you say? And your first name and patronymic?"

"Aleksandr Ivanovich."

"And isn't your father called Ivan Andreyevich?"

"Yes, sir."

"That means, you're his son! I'm glad! For your father and I were in the same division. He served in the tank regiment."

"Exactly right, Comrade General. And during all those years I was with him here, in the Group. Then I gave my heart to the tanks. I was lost for days in the tank park and helped to service the vehicles. And as a reward, the tankers took me along for driving in secret from my father...."

"We can assume that your father knew about it. He complained that his son doesn't even come home to sleep very often. He spends the night with the tankers in the barracks."

"That's how it was."

"Well, I congratulate you, Aleksandr Ivanovich, on your assignment to a Guards tank regiment. You can write your father with confidence that you have already become a Guards lieutenant. I believe that you will be worthy of this lofty title."

Then I renewed my correspondence with Ivan Andreyevich. I sent him only good letters.

At the end of 1973, I left the Group of Forces for the Ural Military District and lost sight of the junior Kazarinov. But three years later I arrived at the N-th unit and heard the familiar name of Kazarinov among the officers who had distinguished themselves. I checked. He was Aleksandr Ivanovich, but now a captain, deputy commander of a tank battalion, and what is more, a wearer of the medal, "For Labor Valor."

"And why did you receive the labor decoration?"

"I commanded a subunit in removing the harvest. I coped with the mission in an excellent manner."

So I again talked with the son of my old fellow-officer. In a fatherly manner I congratulated Aleksandr Ivanovich on all his promotions and distinctions.

"Well, you probably have a family and heirs?"

"No, Comrade General. For the time being, I live in the hotel with the bachelors. I'm preparing for the academy. I'll pass the exams and they'll accept me. Then I'll resolve the family question. But I have a fiancee. She's waiting and believes in me...."

My godson also pleased me with the soundness of his judgements in this manner. For how often it is otherwise. Already in the second or third course many of tomorrow's officers hurry to settle down as married men. At times, they go from the school to the unit not only with a young wife, but also with a child in their arms. And there, at first, housing is not always good and really, in general, life is burdensome for a wife in a remote garrison: neither work that she likes nor former diversions. So discord appears in the young family. How can a poor lieutenant give all his heart and soul to his service here?

But we military people must also have strong families. They are our main support. And our wives must be genuine genuine combat pals. The kind who could encourage us in adversity, be happy with our joys, and would really raise the children and bring them up in a spirit of love and respect for our army. If this is so, our service will proceed better and we will give birth to new military dynasties.

I cannot fail to tell about Anatoliy Trofimovich Loboda here. I met him for the first time at the beginning of 1970 when he had almost one year of officer service. Anatoliy received his lieutenant's rank not in a school (he passed examinations without attending classes for the complete course later), but at short courses to which sergeants who had shown their best aspects as noncommissioned officers and as specialists were sent. And while still on active service, Loboda became the adjudged master of fire from tank armament and showed himself to be a skillful teacher of young cannoneers. He was occupied in sports just as enthusiastically.

Unquestionably, those who began the road to lieutenants' stars with the shoulder boards of a private become the best officers. But, unfortunately, in practice it turns out that of ten cadets today, only one or at most two came to the school from the troops. This is our common shortfall. Everyone and, first of all, commanders of platoons, companies, batteries, and battalions, should strive for the selection of cadets from among the soldiers and sergeants. And the best agitation here is provided by the personal example of these officers, genuine military order in their subunits, and truly effective organization of the entire training process.

But this, so to speak, is on the order of a didactic digression. Let us return again to Anatoliy Loboda.

We served together for three years in the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany and then were transferred to the Ural Military District almost simultaneously. And again this talented officer, a person with a true military core, grew and grew before my eyes.

He commanded a platoon for only several months before the end of the training period. With the new contingent of cadets he took over a training tank company and in a year, when our district became Red Banner, he conducted two outstanding graduations of tank crew commanders.

The rapid advance for such an officer is completely proper. At the end of 1974, Anatoliy Trofimovich had climbed a step higher and was appointed deputy commander of a training tank battalion.

The last jubilee year was also a jubilee year in the personal life of the officer: at that time A. T. Loboda marked his 30th birthday and received the rank of captain. He was an outstanding pupil in our army school and became an outstanding teacher in it.

Those Who Do Not Go To The Reserve

Yes, for a long time after the war the custodians of frontline experience continued to serve in the companies, batteries, and battalions. They generously shared with the young soldiers their skills in conducting successful combat operations, disclosed the secrets of personal skill and the most effective methods for the employment of weapons and equipment, and talked about sharpness and resourcefulness and how comradely assistance and mutual aid permit gaining the victory over a treacherous and strong enemy at the cost of little blood.

But a quarter of a century has passed from the day of our great victory, and we entered the 1970's perceptibly feeling how the ranks of the frontline fighters had thinned in the army. It became difficult to encounter them even among the senior officers. However, veterans are a special people. They cannot live without constant contact with their young replacements. And the grey-haired lieutenant colonels and colonels were then called upon to go to the companies and batteries in order to conduct lessons there personally on the most important subjects of tactical, firing, and special training and to transmit their wealth of combat experience from hand to hand to the soldiers, sergeants, and officers who know of war only from motion pictures and literature.

In our district, officer Boris Andreyevich Mikheyenko in the N-th twice order-bearing motorized rifle unit was such an enthusiast. He taught the young soldiers the practical throwing of live grenades and conducted lessons on rolling over the men with tanks with the highest degree of instructiveness. He usually began this lesson by recalling the distant year of 1943:

"We occupied the defense then. The lads were just like you are now, 18 years old. We had just moved up to the forward positions from the reserve. We dug in all night. At dawn we heard: 'Tanks to the front!' We looked. They were really moving. Many. We didn't have the heart to count. Some jumped out of their foxholes and showed their backs. 'Back!' shouted the company commander. 'Back! We'll let the tanks pass over us and cut the infantry off.' There was nothing else to do. We squeezed ourselves a little deeper into the ground. The roar and clanking came closer and closer. The weapons were shouldered and we prepared to hit the slits. 'Cease fire!' commanded the company commander. 'Don't open fire.... They are our tanks. It will be a good lesson for you if we let them roll over us. It will prove useful in battle....' We let the tanks roll over us. We withstood it. There were no cowards. And a great battle began several days later in those same places. You have heard of it, it went down in history under the name of Kursk.... On such surprises we broke ourselves of the fear of tanks. Now, you and I have different conditions and we can do everything in good time. So, my friends, let us begin the first lesson of bravery...."

And how many demonstration lessons with platoons and companies and conducted for young officers Viktor Aleksandrovich Profil'yev has to his credit! A

native of Stalingrad, he received his baptism of fire on the streets of his native city in the August days of 1942 when he was 17 years of age. Together with the attacking units, he broke through from the Volga to the Don. The bright lad was noticed in a tank brigade, and he was entrusted with command of a reconnaissance platoon. He liberated Zaporozh'ye, Odessa, and Kishinev and marched through the Balkans. Several months before the end of the war, he was sent to a tank school from the front. He became a cadet in the rank of senior sergeant, having two Orders of the Red Star and the Order of Glory 3d degree. In the postwar years, he completed the armored academy with distinction and earned recognition as the most experienced officer-methodologist.

At the start of the 1970's there were many such memorable, to the highest degree instructive firing lessons and tactical exercises on which frontline officers fired the hearts of the young with the ardor of their stern military youth and taught them not only correct actions sharpened to the maximum but also bravery, heroism, and fearlessness.

Not even ten years have passed since that time, but how our army has been rejuvenated. Last spring, I had the occasion to direct command-post exercises. White academy rhombuses showed up on the field service coats of the senior officers and blue enamel badges for the higher military schools shone on the junior officers. However, in the course of the exercises I often caught myself thinking that I often assume the roles in which the teachers of the young soldiers and lieutenants, frontline officers B. A. Mikheyenko and V. A. Perfil'yev, appeared once upon a time.

Of course, when people who had passed through the severe school of the Great Patriotic War stood at the head of the units and subunits, it was not necessary to recall many of these common truths. As they say, their combat experience was flesh and blood. It is a different matter now. And if this is so, then we generals who have been in formation from the war years should now teach the young shoots the elements of frontline practice. Command-post exercises, where much can be replayed and repeated, are the most suitable and most effective form for such training. But nevertheless....

Tradition and experience do not go to the reserve. I made note of these words immediately upon my return from the N-th twice order-bearing unit of our district. I spent almost a week with the motorized riflemen on tactical exercises, the culmination day of which coincided with the anniversary of the unit's formation. Born in the first year of the Great Patriotic War, it travelled a long and glorious frontline path. For unparalleled bravery and military valor displayed in battles for Melitopol', in the forcing of the Sivash, and the storming of Sapun-gory, 16 of its soldiers, sergeants and officers, the bravest of the brave, became wearers of the "Gold Star."

The heirs of the heroes--the men of the end of the 1970's--marked the next anniversary of the unit in a combat manner. Towards morning they completed a march of many kilometers over difficult Ural roads. Ahead awaited a hot meeting "engagement. The commanders assigned the missions for it after

short meetings in the field which took place in all subunits. Before the youths arose their legendary brother-soldiers in all their majesty and, inspiring them, carried them along....

Well, the holiday itself took place later when the unit returned to winter quarters. It is the general formation on the parade ground. The unforgettable ceremony of carrying out the battle standard adorned with two order ribbons. The joy of meeting veterans who arrived for the festivities. And right after this, brought to tears by the stirring minutes of the send-off of the last frontline veteran of the unit, Warrant Officer [praporshchik] Nikolay Mikhaylovich Prygunov, to honorable retirement.

The time came, and the veteran who had served in the unit for exactly a third of a century dropped to one knee before its sacred symbol--the battle standard, and pressed his lips against the red cloth which had fluttered in the fiery winds of war.

Now Nikolay Mikhaylovich does not have to hurry to his service. But no, one of the first wearers of the new combat medal, "For Distinction in Military Service," in the district is not accustomed to a quiet life. The veteran remained to live in his unit's small town and will continue to serve with loyalty and truth the cause of bringing up the army youth in our best traditions for a long time.

"True, Comrade General," Warrant Officer Prygunov said to me, "after me there will be no frontline veterans in the unit, but how many officers are in it now who possess real combat tempering. No, they did not fight, but they went through the front academies in peacetime right here, on our training fields. And their teachers were frontline veterans such as Boris Andreyevich Mikheyenko. Here, for example, is Senior Lieutenant Solovenko...."

I listened to Nikolay Mikhaylovich's story with interest.

The tanks emerged from behind a hill, deployed into a battle line, and darted against the defending motorized riflemen at full speed.

"Calmly," uttered the senior lieutenant. "All are to remain in their places."

The officer's voice was buried in the roar of the engines and the clanking of metal. In the next instant, the tanks crossed a trench from the march and swept directly over the heads of the soldiers who had taken cover in it, splashing their faces with hot gases and dust. Instantly, the helmets of the motorized riflemen rose up from the foxholes and grenades flew right behind the tanks which had moved away. Then the officer assembled the platoon and asked, turning to the young soldiers:

"Well, how was it, frightful?"

"Not very," Private Pochukalin answered for all. "But to be honest, it was a little terrifying. Say what you like, but so many tons swept past over my

head. Part of the trench caved in near me. A little sprinkled in, but I dug out...."

The soldiers began to smile. The strain abated. The motorized riflemen took their shovels and began to clear the trench which had caved in in several places.

"And you know," continued Prygunov, "a day earlier many of those who successfully withstood being rolled over by the tanks in no way wanted to remain in the foxholes on which the huge steel machines were moving. They did not lose the sense of fear even after the tank passed three times over the head of the senior lieutenant and they all were convinced that he remained unharmed."

The turning point came later when Solovenko performed a bold and curious experiment. Calling the driver-mechanic aside, he talked with him about something. Then, selecting a flat section of the field, he lay on the ground face down and waved his hand. The tank moved toward the man who was in no way protected. Soon the platoon commander was between the tracks. A second, another, and he rose up springily and easily.

"Well? It's as if nothing had happened! This was on an open place. But in a foxhole or trench a tank is all the less terrible."

It goes without saying that frontline officer B. A. Mikheyenko had found a worthy successor--brave and resourceful and able to lead the soldiers in the most dangerous combat deeds.

Combat traditions and frontline experience are the priceless riches of each troop collective. Well, how about a third of a century which we lived through in peaceful days of strained soldierly labor? How many victories were won during these years on tactical exercises and on the ranges, on the tank driving grounds and rifle ranges, how many masters of military affairs were raised in the regiments and battalions, what glorious commanders stood at their head and what soldiers and sergeants confirmed by their zealous training and service the correctness of the ancient precept that "in life there is always a place for an exploit!..."

The time which separates us from the May days of the unforgettable year of 1945--this is new chapters in the brilliant combat chronicles of the units and large units. The printed histories of the military districts and the oldest academies and schools in which the postwar decades are also ponderably presented have already been created. Histories of the peaceful days of combat training are a worthy continuation of the chronicles born in the years of severe military tests.

Exercises Behind Us, Exercises Ahead

The following saying exists among the students: "Examinations behind us, examinations ahead of us." Almost the same thing was marked off in the frontline universities day after day: "Battles behind us, battles ahead."

And in the routine peaceful days of combat training our lives are constant uneasiness: "Exercises behind us, exercises ahead...."

For all these more than 30 postwar years I was occupied with these same matters: either I studied myself or I taught others.

In 1950, I became a combined-arms officer upon completing the Frunze Academy. Perhaps the reader is surprised by such a transformation. I will explain briefly how this occurred. Considering myself a born artilleryman, after the war I entered my vital Dzerzhinskiy Academy. But having studied in it for a month and a half, I was transferred to the Frunze Academy to one of the special training groups of the main faculty which was formed from representatives of the most varied arms and services. And I won't complain about that. Studying with me, an artilleryman, were infantrymen and tankers, pilots, signalmen, and combat engineers. Rallied into one collective and with each of these specialties having its wealth of experience, we truly became genuine combined-arms commanders who understand all the fine points of operations on the field of battle not only by rifle units and subunits, but also by tanks, aviation, artillery, communications, engineering equipment, and all other materiel.

Those were years when weapons and combat equipment, the organizational structure, and combat and operational training of the troops continued to be perfected on the basis of a profound study of the lessons and combat experience of the last war. At that time the army received the new Combat Regulation. And we, the students of the first postwar contingents in the academies, tried to comprehend deeply everything new which had appeared in military affairs, understanding that we were also to be the first ones to implement it.

Upon completion of the academy, I served two and a half years on the staff of the Kiev Military District. This time did not pass without a trace either and it helped me to comprehend better the secrets of staff work and to corroborate theoretical knowledge of operational art with substantial practice. But I was young and longed to test my strength and abilities on more difficult matters. A burning desire appeared to go back to the troops. It goes without saying, work in a large headquarters is important, difficult, and interesting. But nevertheless, if you have not passed through the stages of basic command duties in a regiment or division, with time you risk the loss of a sense of constant understanding that everything which you resolved here, on a large scale, is necessary primarily to ensure success in the operations of the main subordinate elements--those same regiments and divisions.

I got what I wanted and received a transfer to a line unit. The middle of the 1950's became the time when the introduction of nuclear weapons with the simultaneous practical mastery of this fundamentally new means of armed conflict was begun on the basis of swift scientific and technical progress in the Armed Forces.

A great many exercises were conducted then. As soon as you returned from the field, you hurry to dry out all equipment as soon as possible to go out again on an exercise....

The appearance of weapons with a hitherto unprecedented destructive force, the further improvement of conventional means of combat on a new technical basis, and the fundamental changes in the organizational development and training of the Armed Forces connected with this required that Soviet military science comprehend creatively the revolutionary transformations in military affairs.

The Military Academy of the General Staff of the Soviet Armed Forces was called upon to play an important role in the solution of these problems. And I am happy that at this very time I again had the occasion, after a seven-year interruption, to get to study, but this time in the country's Higher Military-Training Center.

Our creative discussions at the seminar lessons are especially memorable. With the appearance of the new weapons, a situation was created where theory arose in parallel with the working out and study of applied practical tasks. There were not yet established views on many questions in military art, especially in the field of nuclear weapons employment. In essence, the professorial and teaching staff and the students were under the same conditions since neither the former nor the latter had experience in the employment of these weapons in battles and operations. The bold exchange of opinions on the seminars contributed to the working out of single views and concepts.

Two more years of study flew by quickly, and again the troops, another 10 to 15 years on newer and newer exercises. As they say, I used myself to cover such a tremendous period in the postwar development of our Armed Forces by no means in order somehow to overstress facts in my personal biography. Hundreds of other officers who ended the war as captains, majors, and lieutenant colonels lived their lives in such a complex and difficult time. I had quite a different goal--I tried to show today's officer youth more clearly and graphically how important it is in our swift age for a military person to study and study, never resting on one's laurels and not being satisfied with an old store of knowledge.

Today our Armed Forces are at a qualitatively new stage of development. I will dwell again on an example close to me.

The Ground Forces have been transformed unrecognizably in recent years. In their combat composition we find all contemporary combat arms whose organizational structure, level of ability, and degree of combat readiness correspond completely to high contemporary requirements. As a result of complete motorization and equipping with armored means, the motorized rifle units and sub-units have become much more mobile and their personnel better protected against the effects of nuclear weapons. Tank equipment received further development. Contemporary combat vehicles with powerful armament and thick armored protection, a large radius of action, and improved instruments for driving and battle control are most adapted for operations under conditions where the enemy employs nuclear weapons. Well, the Operational and Tactical Missile Forces which, together with the artillery, comprise the basis of the

Ground Forces' firepower, are also capable of launching powerful and accurate nuclear strikes against any targets located at great distances.

It should be said that the T-34 tanks, artillery weapons of 76-, 100-, and 152-millimeter caliber, and the BM-13 and BM-31-12 artillery rocket launchers were correctly called weapons and equipment of victory by the people and, after the war, for a number of years were superior to later similar models of foreign equipment in their basic combat and operational performance data.

The Svirsko-Petrozavodsk offensive operation is in my memory even today. We rocketmen at that time took part in the breakthrough of permanent, deeply-echeloned fortifications on the Ladoga-Onega defile. Our separate "katyusha" battalions were brought together as rocket launcher regiments. And in one salvo, each such regiment armed with BM-13's rained down on the enemy 384 shells in 8-10 seconds and plowed over an area of almost 100 hectares with 16 tons of a fiery load. In those days, I also had the occasion to see in combat action for the first time the BM-31 launcher. Twelve 300-millimeter rocket shells were launched simultaneously from 12 launching rails. They weighed 91.5 kilograms each. A staggering picture!

But the years have passed and we already say calmly that as regards fire-power contemporary multicharge rocket launchers are significantly superior to our legendary "katyushas" of the war period.

If the frontline fighters who fell in the battles for the motherland could rise up now and visit not even big, army exercises but only regimental tactical exercises, how they would marvel, how pleased they would be. "What weapons and what equipment you have, brothers! With such force, it would be nothing to break the backbone not only of Hitler, but of the very devil," they would say to their contemporaries of today but, perhaps, they would immediately have doubts: "And how do you master all this? Here, I think, a special soldier is needed--an engineer or professor. But you don't seem to be different from us in any way, except a little taller...."

So it is. Outwardly, the servicemen of the 1970's are just like the soldiers with whom I travelled the frontline roads and tracks. I happened to see them on the shots of films of that time. Then it really seemed that I myself was carried away to the unforgettable years of my youth. The same faces, the same jokes and facetious sayings, the same combat ardor....

And in order to understand what they are, today's young defenders of the fatherland, it is necessary to get accustomed to them a little more intently, to listen to what they say on political seminar lessons and to what they argue about in debates on questions of science, technology, and culture and, most important, to look at them in action, at the equipment and weapons.

Let us take a rifle company. Formerly, it was armed with four or five types of weapons: rifles or submachineguns, heavy and light machineguns, grenades, and sometimes a sniper's rifle. Now, besides small arms this subunit has

grenade launchers, weapons to repel air attacks, and infantry combat vehicles equipped with cannons and antitank guided missiles [ATGM]. Among our men, the infantry combat vehicles enjoy as much love as the "katyushas" did among the frontline fighters. It is not without reason that the soldiers named them just as affectionately--"swallows." These vehicles gave the motorized riflemen swiftness of maneuver, increased their firepower many-fold, and permitted the ensured destruction of infantry as well as armored targets.

But when much is given, much is asked in return. New specialties appeared in the rifle company--grenade launchermen, driver-mechanics of the combat vehicles, and weapons and ATGM gunners. Equally with the assault riflemen and machinegunners, they are required to know the weapons and equipment entrusted to them to perfection and to master all procedures for their tactical employment. Now, it is not enough for the infantrymen to shoot and it really is not difficult to teach them this. In a week or two each one will be able to hit the bulls' eye. Contemporary battle is not a contest in a shooting gallery. In order to feel confident in it, the motorized rifleman must work out excellently not one or two exercises, but an entire difficult course of firings. Here, months are now required for training. And such a matter as firing, which appears simple at first glance, suddenly turns into an entire science.

And which combat formations of the infantry combat vehicles are most acceptable in the attack and in the defense? There can be very many versions. But the main thing which should concern commanders of companies, platoons, vehicles and, of course, the driver-mechanics is the employment of the infantry combat vehicles so as to make maximum use of their armament and their speed qualities and, at the same time, to employ them so that the equipment with people on board does not come under the withering fire of enemy antitank weapons.

This concerns the motorized riflemen. And for the artillerymen and tankers, combat engineers and signalmen.... How many new missions they have!

And we generals and officers of the 1970's do not forget for even an hour that the new armament is more authoritative in demanding of the personnel a high level of special training, creative thinking, an independent approach to the accomplishment of practical tasks, and the comprehensive development of intellectual and physical abilities. The latest combat equipment and its tremendous destructive power have also raised unprecedentedly the requirements imposed on the moral and combat qualities of the men and increased sharply the responsibility of each of them for the accomplishment of the mission by the squad, section, crew, subunit, and unit.

In short, one of our most urgent tasks today is to exclude the possibility of a gap between the complexity of the weapons with which our army is now equipped and the level of mastery of this combat equipment. On the whole, this task is being accomplished successfully. The speed of deployment into combat formation, the swiftness of attacks and counterattacks, and the skillful and

nimble actions in the assault crossing of water obstacles which were demonstrated on large and small exercises of recent years testify to the highly technical ability of the soldiers and sergeants, the growth in the professional skill of command and political personnel, their good tactical and operational training, and the moral-political maturity of all personnel.

...As now we see before us the exercises on which the tankers of officer Gennadiy Stanislavovich Sadovskiy especially distinguished themselves.

The general tactical background was as follows: to move up from the rear without delay, to enter battle from the march, to repel the counterattack by a strong "enemy" force under conditions where nuclear missile weapons are employed, to throw it back and, in pursuit, to force a large water obstacle also from the march, seize a beachhead on the opposite bank of the river, and hold it firmly until the arrival of the main body.

The march of many kilometers was accomplished swiftly. The meeting engagement was won boldly and decisively. The tankers launched a preemptive fire strike on the "enemy" at his most vulnerable spot. The route to the water obstacle was open. The vehicles of the point of the advance guard crossed the river afloat. But in order to really consolidate, all the other tanks must be on the opposite bank as soon as possible. But they were to force the obstacle beneath the water. Would they be able to, would they do it in time?

The fine fellows worked like clockwork. The lead group of tanks reached the water's edge simultaneously. Several more minutes--and only their air-intake pipes jut out above the river. And the next group is already on the bank. These tanks also dashed beneath the water without delay....

"To be sure, synchronization is excellent," noted the exercise director. "The frontline fighters also would have envied such ability...."

This success was won by the entire troop collective and, primarily, by the soldiers and sergeants. Following the example of the officers, on the eve of the exercises they were also working on their miniature ranges. Becoming familiar with the situation on them, each tanker received ahead of time an impression of what his maneuver actions should be on the march and in the meeting engagement, when forcing the water obstacle, and during the period of operations in the beachhead. On drills special attention was devoted to the individual skill of the specialists and to their interchangeability. All this instilled in the soldiers and sergeants the confidence that in any difficult minute their comrades will come to their assistance, will help them out, and will back them up.

Yes, the new types of weapons and combat equipment, the increase in their striking and destructive force, and the increased dynamism of combat operations are increasing many-fold the physical load on the men and the influence on their mental attitude. They require tremendous spiritual strength, firmness of will, and the ability not only to overcome fear and confusion, but also to operate coolly, in an organized manner, and purposefully.

Today, we are also called upon to instill all these qualities in the personnel in the course of combat, political, and moral-psychological training. And we have no time to spare. The periods of service have been reduced. The active duty soldiers and sergeants are now in formation for only two years rather than three.

That's how it is. But look at what replacements come to the army each spring and fall! The absolute majority of them are youths who have received good primary military training in the general educational schools, in technical and vocational schools, and technical schools, worker and peasant lads with certificates of the successful completion of a substantial program in one or another military specialty at DOSAAF training centers. They almost all have a secondary education behind them.

It is recalled that in the first half of the 1960's the following slogan was extremely popular in the army: substantial knowledge of mathematics, electronics, and nuclear physics for each soldier. But now such appeals are not heard. And not because the necessity for the firm knowledge of these disciplines has disappeared, of course. It is all explained more simply: the young people who have just donned the soldiers' overcoats, as they say, are theoretically 100-percent grounded, and our problem is reduced more to seeing that they grow into excellent practitioners of military affairs, bright and strong, with initiative and strong in spirit.

And their immediate teachers and mentors are the platoon, company, and battery commanders! From their first lieutenant steps they are all now a head taller in both their general and special training of their young subordinates, and each one has on his coat the rhombus attesting to completion of higher military schools.

Nor has it been forgotten that the soldier and sergeant, whatever strong military collective he may join, retains his individuality at the same time and possesses his life's and labor experience, needs, interests, and special stamp of character. And that is why the institution of deputy subunit commanders for political affairs has now become qualitatively different. They are young officers who have received not only a higher military-political education, but also a ponderable commander's education, in which regard not a general education but strictly directed training. In our district, for example, the higher military-political schools train deputy commanders of artillery, tank, and aviation subunits.

Here is a cadet of the Sverdlovsk Higher Military-Political Tank-Artillery School, Dmitriy Kuchma, who was awarded stipends given by the Sverdlovsk Komsomol obkom for successes in training and service. Not so long ago, I had the occasion to talk with him. As usual, I was interested in why he decided to select the military profession as his life's work.

"The selection was determined by consciousness of duty and the necessity of this profession for the Soviet state of our time," Dmitriy answered firmly.

"And the war also influenced this decision to some degree. It reaches us as if a reflected wave. But we feel and treasure highly with all our hearts the exploit which you, the people of the older generation, accomplished in the name of peace on earth."

The cadet's father is a frontline fighter. After the war he remained in the ranks of the Soviet Army, became a political officer, and then a teacher in the military schools. Unquestionably, the striving to be like his father in every way influenced the fact that the gold medalist of Sverdlovsk Secondary School No. 9, who has a physics and mathematics inclination, went to the servicemen and young defenders of the fatherland rather than to the exact sciences.

"Our future work, the work of the political officer, is very difficult," continued my conversation partner. "We must be first-class artillery commanders and, at the same time, engineers of the human souls, performing the duties of subunit political deputies. I and all my comrades have an attitude of great responsibility toward the mastery of Marxist-Leninist science and we understand the various forms of party-political work and the secrets of military psychology and pedagogy. Each of us remembers that he is training to accomplish a state mission and that the defensive capability of the entire country will depend, in the final analysis, on what kind of servicemen we raise."

Today, the youth of the Soviet country is at its battle stations, those to whom we, the Komsomols of the alarming 1930's, frontline fighters of the legendary 1940's, colonels of the 50's, and generals of the 60's and 70's are passing the baton which we received and carried with honor through the decades from the Red Guards of the Great October and the fighters of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army of the first call-ups. And the 18-year old soldiers and cadets whose combat youth is illuminated by the even brighter sun of the new Constitution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics are receiving it in hands which are just as reliable.

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CHIEF OF REAR SERVICES ON IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 3, Mar 78 signed to press 20 Feb 78 pp 2-4

[Article by Army Gen S. K. Kurkotkin, Deputy Minister of Defense, Chief of Rear Services of the USSR Armed Forces: "Common Concern for Living Conditions"]

[Text] Throughout the entire 60 year history of the Soviet Armed Forces, alongside concern over technical improvement, there has been equal concern for creating favorable conditions for the daily lives, combat and political training of army and navy personnel, which has been and remains one of the most important tasks of our party, state, command and political cadres.

And this is understandable. Practical experience indicates that living conditions directly influence the combat readiness of units and naval ships. The interrelationship between living conditions and people's moods and their success in training, service and discipline is unquestioned. Wherever there is paternal concern for meeting the material and cultural needs of military personnel, as a rule discipline is stronger, service is better organized, and combat readiness is higher.

Take, for example, the question of housing personnel. At the very dawn of Soviet rule M. V. Frunze wrote that embodied in the red barracks we want to have an establishment which is not only the place where the Red Armyman receives military training but also a place of his indoctrination, both political and cultural; we want the Red Armyman to enter these barracks joyfully; we do not want him to feel burdened by the fact that he is being separated from his home environment; we want him to learn and on returning home to be adequately prepared to carry out his general obligations as a citizen.

Everything about which M. V. Frunze was dreaming at that time has long since come to pass. Today the people rightfully call the Soviet Army a genuine school of indoctrination of their sons. CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Comrade L. I. Brezhnev spoke warmly and sincerely about this at the 25th CPSU Congress: "Young men enter the family of the military without having been through the school of life. But they return from the military as adults, who have graduated from the school of self-mastery and discipline, who have acquired technical, occupational knowledge and political training."

The outstanding success achieved by the advanced socialist society in all areas of the nation's economy has enabled the party and Soviet state to create the most favorable material and other conditions for training and indoctrination of military personnel, for satisfying their continuously-growing spiritual and intellectual needs and organization of their leisure time for raising their cultural level. The personnel of military units are today housed in well-equipped military posts. Increasingly appearing on these posts are modern barracks and other buildings with all services and conveniences, recreation areas, sports facilities, planted trees and shrubs, etc. Old mess halls are being renovated and new ones built, facilities capable of preparing a wide variety of tasty dishes and with improved meal dispensing procedures. Almost all garrisons contain enlisted personnel snack bars, which have become the men's favorite relaxation spot. They contain radio receivers, newspapers, magazines, table games, and television sets. We should particularly mention the personal services combines, which in the last several years have become solid fixtures in many units. These combines offer a great many personal services to military personnel and are capable of providing fast service to entire subunits, that is, they are a qualitatively new and higher organizational form of personal services facility.

Personnel nutrition has improved substantially. The military ration today contains many more calories, and includes a wide selection of foods. Much has also been done to improve military clothing and uniform supply standards. A new uniform has been adopted, which is most fully in conformity with today's demands in design, cut and quality. Military pay and benefits, medical care, trade and personal services continue to improve.

Behind all these achievements stands the tireless concern by the party, its Central Committee, and CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Comrade L. I. Brezhnev, Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, for the Armed Forces and the hard work being performed by our entire great country. Commanding officers and political workers of units and naval ships, their principal assistants -- warrant officers and noncommissioned officers, as well as all personnel, including rear services specialists, have made a weighty contribution toward improving living conditions in the military. And this is entirely logical. Parasitical attitudes are alien to Soviet military personnel. They not only enjoy all the benefits provided but themselves are active champions of exemplary living conditions and leisure time spent in highly-cultural activities.

Party and Komsomol organizations have played and continue to play a major role in mobilizing all personnel to accomplish practical tasks in the area of improving life in the military. As practical experience indicates, success in the campaign for exemplary living conditions is achieved as a result of common efforts and common involvement on the part of military collectives in creating favorable conditions for service, training and cultured rest and recreation by military personnel.

This was manifested very clearly in the course of the Armed Forces review-competition to determine the best army (navy) unit in operations and finances, the best medical facility and trade-services enterprise, dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the Great October Revolution. Active participation by commanders, political workers and all military personnel, as well as their strong interest in the success of the unit, naval ship and establishment led to the achievement of excellent results.

For example, military posts have become more attractive. The absolute majority of housing and service buildings on military posts are now in good or satisfactory condition. Everywhere considerable labor and effort have been expended by personnel on equipping sleeping quarters, Lenin rooms, and mess halls. In a number of units in the Northern Caucasus, Kiev, Baltic, Leningrad and other military districts, the Strategic Missile Forces and National Air Defense Forces, for example, mess halls are now in no way inferior to the country's leading enterprises in content, equipment and attractive appearance.

Considerable work has been accomplished in the units in the area of establishing the requisite conditions for maintaining a good external appearance on the part of military personnel. For example, greater attention has been devoted to making uniforms fit properly and toward effecting prompt clothing and uniform repairs, as well as toward teaching the men habits of proper care of clothing and footgear. Clothing repair and dry-cleaning shops have begun to be used more efficiently toward this end. Proper procedures have been adopted in personal services rooms, personnel personal effects storage rooms, and there are now fewer complaints about the job done by driers.

In the course of the review-competition good results were achieved by the work forces of many medical facilities. Their activities are directed toward guarding and improving the health of personnel as an important element in combat training of troops and naval forces. Having improved the quality of all preventive, antiepidemic and therapeutic-health improvement measures, they have been able substantially to reduce the sick rate among military personnel and unwarranted labor losses.

The personnel of military trade enterprises competed vigorously. As a result many received high marks, while 92 enterprises, by order of the USSR Minister of Defense, were awarded diplomas and certificates. There are now dozens of exemplary stores and trade complexes in the army and navy.

The thrift and economy movement as well as competition for the title of best in occupational specialty experienced an extensive growth in the course of the review-competition. Rear services specialists worked hard to improve quality of food preparation, equipment storage, exemplary repair of gear, etc. Internal reserve potential and capabilities of military unit (naval ship) facilities were sought out and implemented in order to achieve full satisfaction of needs in the area of daily living conditions.

We should note that many warrant officers and noncommissioned officers directly involved in providing military personnel daily living conditions and leisure time activities distinguished themselves in all these fine actions and initiatives. Outstanding individuals include mess hall chief Warrant Officer A. Voronkov (from the unit which took first place in the review-competition), company sergeant major WO N. Fedorov (from the unit which took second place in the review-competition), food warehouse chief WO S. Shandruk, clothing stores chief PO P. Maydanyuk, and training detachment company sergeant major WO S. Gorbatsevich. These and many other warrant officers and noncommissioned officers who achieved excellent results in their military labor were participants in the Armed Forces Conference on Improving Personnel Living Conditions, which was held in Moscow at the end of last year.

The Armed Forces Conference on Improving Living Conditions for Military Personnel is new evidence of the enormous concern on the part of the Communist Party and Soviet Government for the armed defenders of the homeland. It made it possible extensively to exchange advanced work know-how, more deeply to reveal unutilized reserve potential in organization of daily supply and support services and cultural services for personnel and, what is very important, to determine concrete ways of improving living conditions in the military.

A major address at the conference was delivered by USSR Minister of Defense Mar SU D. F. Ustinov. His instructions became for all commanders, political workers and rear services specialists an ambitious program of action for further improving daily support services for troops and naval forces. I shall mention those which open up a broad area for application of effort by our warrant officers and noncommissioned officers working in the area of supply, medical care, trade, personal and other services for military personnel.

In the third year of the 10th Five-Year Plan work will continue in our garrisons on renovation of old and completion of new housing facilities and mess halls. One must bear in mind thereby that a facility is reliable and will serve man for many years only when it is properly cared for, when it is properly utilized, promptly repaired and maintained, etc. To maintain all housing and service facilities at military installations in exemplary order means to be genuinely concerned with proper care of socialist property. In our opinion this is one of the most important tasks of rear services specialists.

Much remains to be accomplished by food service specialists in their area. As was noted at the Armed Forces Conference, concrete measures are specified for coming years for improving quality and further enlarging variety, improvement in the design of mess hall equipment, and improvement of field equipment. In the current five-year plan, for example, it will become possible to replace aluminum dishes and utensils with improved-quality melalite. All this creates objective conditions for organization of high-quality meals

for military personnel. Hence the task of such officials as, for example, the commander of the battalion supply platoon, the mess hall chief, cook-instructor, and food stores chief consist in skillfully and efficiently utilizing available capabilities and devoting on a daily basis maximum attention to organization of feeding of personnel.

Addressing the conference, the USSR Minister of Defense emphasized that organization of meals at exercises and field drills as well as on the march should become a focus of special concern. He stated that if in peace-time normal provision of meals for officers and men, particularly hot meals, are not provided during field exercises, this means that the rear services subunits and services have a low level of combat readiness and have failed to accomplish their tasks. In order to solve the problems of feeding troops it is necessary more deeply to study the experience of rear services sub-units during the Great Patriotic War and to incorporate this experience taking into account the present material-technical foundation of the rear services.

Kitchen-adjacent and ancillary operations, particularly greenhouses, should be expanded and strengthened. Practical experience indicates that things go well wherever these facilities are looked after directly by mess hall chiefs. Those who attempt to unburden themselves of this responsibility, who consider it an unnecessary encumbrance, are deeply mistaken, for the product of kitchen-ancillary food operations goes onto the men's table, and therefore is an important reserve potential for improving the quality of the men's diet. A good mess hall chief, who is genuinely concerned with organization of high-quality meal operations, will never allow such reserve potential to remain unutilized.

Considerable work is being done at the present time on further improving the military personnel clothing situation. For example, we have begun making dress uniform shirts for enlisted personnel and noncommissioned officers out of wrinkle-free Dacron in place of cotton. Development of this country's economy will make it possible in coming years to introduce as a standard supply item for warrant officers a summer coat in place of the cotton cape, naval warrant officers -- a rain cape, a work uniform for all personnel enrolled at Soviet Army service schools, a warm-up suit and flats for all persons enrolled at military educational institutions.

Issue standards are being increased for clothing and uniform issue to personnel enrolled in four-year service schools as well as enlisted personnel and noncommissioned officers in particularly cold-climate areas. The boot replacement schedule for enlisted personnel and noncommissioned officers has been accelerated, etc.

However, in order for the appearance of personnel to be genuinely exemplary, it is not enough to have such an extensive "wardrobe"; it is also necessary to ensure proper storage, care, cleaning and repair of clothing and uniform items. In this area there arise a number of tasks both for personnel in

charge of clothing stores, repair shops, and dry-cleaning facilities, and for company sergeant majors, squad leaders, and all enlisted personnel. For example, the Internal Service Regulations state that the company sergeant major shall be responsible for the appearance of enlisted personnel and non-commissioned officers, shall individually fit clothing and footwear, shall receive clothing in a prompt manner and keep close track of inventory, clothing storage and maintenance, shall be responsible for availability of material for repairing clothing, etc. The squad leader is also responsible for maintenance of uniforms, clothing and maintenance. All personnel shall take good care of clothing and footgear, make prompt, neat repairs, clean them daily and store clothing as instructed. In performing this work one should at all times bear in mind the instructions of the USSR Minister of Defense that the external appearance of Soviet military personnel is a reflection of their internal content, an indicator of capability and preparedness to carry out one's military duty to the homeland in its entirety.

It is necessary to raise medical care of personnel to a qualitatively new level in light of the demands of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers decree entitled "On Measures Toward Further Improving Public Health Care." One of the main tasks proceeding from this decree for medical service specialists is the task of guarding the health of military personnel, which is accomplished by observing rules of sanitation and hygiene and the performance of preventive and antiepidemic measures, as well as continuous medical monitoring of the state of health of personnel.

Much is to be accomplished by rear services specialists employed in the area of military personnel trade and personal services, particularly at remote and small garrisons. Greater attention must be focused on prompt shipping of goods, full satisfaction of demand, elimination of interruptions in trade and improved quality of serving military personnel.

Successful performance of measures to improve living conditions for troops and naval forces is inconceivable without radical improvement of all organizational work in units and naval ships, aimed at further improvement in housekeeping operations in the army and navy. Guided by the instructions of the December (1977) CPSU Central Committee Plenum, it is necessary to step up the campaign for economy and thrift, efficient utilization of allocated funds, and mobilization of all internal reserve potential and capabilities of military (naval) housekeeping operations. The job also consists in constantly indoctrinating in all military personnel a thrifty attitude toward socialist property. It is necessary to inspire the men, to do everything to ensure that they become aware that in matters of improving facilities much depends on the men themselves, on their own efforts in providing exemplary living conditions and cultured leisure-time activities.

Work on carrying out the instructions of the USSR Minister of Defense and the recommendations of the Armed Forces Conference on boosting military living conditions to a qualitatively new level is being conducted under the slogan of making the 60th anniversary of the USSR Armed Forces a year of military shock

labor. This same objective is pursued by the new review-competition at the beginning of this year to determine the best housekeeping and financial operations among the combined units and military educational institutions of the Soviet Army and Navy, the best medical facility and trade-services enterprises of district (group) and fleet subordination.

The results of the first stage of competition and the review-competition, completed to coincide with the anniversary of the USSR Armed Forces, attest to the fact that a new and higher level has been reached in the army and navy in the campaign for efficiency and quality of military labor. The people of the rear services have also achieved new success. Many interesting patriotic initiatives have been born in the most recent period in rear services units, subunits and establishments, and there have appeared initiators and beacon performances which the rest are seeking to emulate. Those who are advancing at the forefront include the subunits in which officers V. Osipov, V. Alekseyev, V. Senchenya and M. Kabanov serve, the work forces at the Main Military Hospital imeni N. N. Burdenko and District Military Hospital imeni Z. P. Solov'yev (Leningrad Military District), the trade directorates of the Kiev and Moscow military districts, which were awarded the Challenge Red Banner of the Ministry of Defense and Central Committee of the Trade Union of Workers in Trade and Consumer Cooperatives for first place on the basis of performance results in 1977.

A new infusion of energy was evoked in army and navy personnel by the Letter by the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, All-Union Central Trade Union Council and Komsomol Central Committee on development of socialist competition for fulfillment and overfulfillment of the 1978 plan and a stepped-up campaign to improve production efficiency and work quality. Utilizing the inspiring and mobilizing force of this document, Soviet military personnel will be able to reach increasingly high performance levels in their military labor and in accomplishing the difficult tasks assigned the USSR Armed Forces by the 25th CPSU Congress.

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MILITARY PENSIONS: TYPES AND PAYMENT PROCEDURES

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 3, Mar 78 signed to press 20 Feb 78 p 37

[Article by Maj Gen Intend Serv A. Kotlyar, Deputy Chief, Central Finance Directorate, USSR Ministry of Defense: "Pension Security"]

[Text] Warrant officers and extended-service personnel discharged into the reserves or retired, in conformity with present legislation, are entitled to a pension for their years of service or a disability pension. If a discharged serviceman is entitled both to a pension for years of service and a disability pension, he is entitled to one of these pensions, whichever one he chooses.

Pension benefits are calculated on the basis of the pay and allowances received by an individual immediately prior to discharge from active military service -- from pay based on the last position held and on military rank, as well as the amount of the food allowance received during the time in the last job held. Other pay and allowances, including those of a permanent nature (hardship pay, compensation for level of skill) shall not be used in computing pension benefits. Military personnel who were receiving prior to discharge additional pay for service in a remote location shall have their pension benefits computed from the normal rate of pay.

Pensions for years of service and disability pensions granted to warrant officers and extended-service personnel may not exceed the maximum amount specified for them.

Pensions for years of service. Depending on total years of service in the USSR Armed Forces, time and reason for discharge from active military service, and age as of day of discharge, warrant officers and extended-service military personnel are granted pensions as follows: for 25 years or more of service; for 20 to 25 years of service; for years of service based on conditions and standards specified for command-echelon personnel and rank and file personnel of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs.

A pension for 35 years or more of service (figuring in preferential-terms computation of specified periods of service) is paid to warrant officers and extended-service personnel in the amount of 50% of military pay, as well as

3% of military pay for each year of service beyond 25 years, but shall total not more than 75% of military pay and allowances. The right to this pension is not dependent on the age of the individual on the day of discharge from active military service, time of and reason for discharge.

Warrant officers and extended-service personnel who have served at least 20 years are entitled to a pension for service of from 20 to 25 years, upon discharge from active military service, upon completion of the term of service as specified by obligation (enlistment agreement), by reason of age, sickness, impaired state of health or organizational measures, if said personnel are 40 years of age or older as of the day of discharge. Military personnel discharged directly from flight duties, submarine and minesweeper duty shall receive this pension regardless of age n day of discharge. The pension benefit amount is determined by the age of the individual on the day of discharge from active military service and is as follows: for military personnel who have not reached 50 years of age by the day of discharge -- 30% of military pay and allowances; for military personnel who have reached the specified age by the day of discharge -- 40% of military pay and allowances.

A pension for years of service under the conditions and standards specified for command-echelon personnel and rank and file personnel of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs may be granted to warrant officers and extended-service personnel who have previously served in internal affairs organizations (for example, in the militia), discharged from active military service upon completing the term of service specified in the service obligation (enlistment agreement), for reason of illness, impaired state of health or because of organizational measures, if their total term of service, including service in internal affairs organizations, is not less than 25 years.

The amounts specified for this pension are similar to those specified in a pension granted on terms specified for military personnel. The difference is that in computing this pension one does not employ in computation the military pay based on rank, since in internal affairs organizations pay on this basis is not specified. In addition, the pension is computed within the limits of the maximum amount specified for rank and file personnel and junior command personnel of internal affairs organizations.

The principal condition determining entitlement to a pension for years of service and the amount of this pension is total term of service in the USSR Armed Forces, consisting of calendar service and individual periods figured on the basis of appropriate preferential terms.

All military service in the Soviet Army, Navy, border and internal troops, as well as service in partisan detachments and combined units, in local defense force units and combined units during the Great Patriotic War are counted in computing total number of years of service for a pension granted on the conditions specified for military personnel.

Service in paramilitary organizations and establishments the personnel of which were considered in the status of military service but who were in fact

not military personnel, terms of service in military units as students and apprentices, service in the capacity of a military production worker, etc, shall not be credited for pension purposes.

In view of the specific conditions of active military service as well as in some military arms and in some localities, individual periods of military service count toward pension credit not as calendar terms but under preferential conditions.

Disability pensions. These pensions are granted to warrant officers and extended-service military personnel designated as disabled veterans upon discharge into the reserves or on retirement, if their disability occurs during military service or not later than 3 months after discharge, or later than 3 months after discharge but as a consequence of an injury, contusion, crippling injury or illness occurring during military service.

Depending on the degree of disability, military personnel can be designated a disabled veteran of group I, II, or III. All matters connected with determination of disability status shall be decided by a medical commission for determination of disability (VTEK), operating under the jurisdiction of the corresponding social security agency. Decisions on the connection between disability and military service shall be made by the VTEK on the basis of available military medical documents (certificate of illness issued by a military medical commission, certificates of injury, etc) and other data corroborating the cause of disability.

The disability pension amount is determined by the disability group and cause of disability, and in some instances also depends on the total length of military service.

Granting and payment of pensions. Warrant officers and extended-service personnel discharged from active military service shall submit their pension application to rayon and city military commissariats at their location of residence, which when necessary will assist them in filling out the necessary documents. Pensions are granted by oblast (kray, republic) -- and in Moscow, Leningrad, and Kiev -- by city military commissariats. Gosbank institutions pay pension benefits on the instructions of these military commissariats.

Disability pensions of groups I and II are paid by Gosbank institutions in the full amount, regardless of whether the pension recipient has earnings or other income.

Pensions for years of service and for group III disability are paid to warrant officers and extended-service military personnel who are working pension recipients, are paid taking earnings into account, that is, in such an amount that the pension and earnings together do not exceed total military pay and allowances and the food allowance, on the basis of which the pension was computed. In any case pension recipients, regardless of present earnings, receive no less than half of the designated pension, while group III disabled veterans, whose disability is connected with performance of duties in

military service, in addition shall receive not less than the specified minimum pension amount.

More favorable terms of pension payments taking earnings into account were established effective 1 November 1977 for warrant officer and extended-service military personnel pension recipients who had served in the Far North and equivalent areas, who remained behind in these areas and localities to take up civilian jobs directly upon discharge from the military. Payment of pensions for years of service and for group III disability paid to these individuals are figured on the basis of actual military pay and allowances received prior to discharge, amounts increased for service in a remote locality, together with a percentage increase for continuous service in remote localities.

For certain categories of working pension recipients who had been warrant officers or extended-service military personnel, pensions are paid without taking earnings into account. In particular, this procedure is employed in paying a pension to pension recipients permanently employed as sovkhoz workers and at other agricultural enterprises, as well as persons employed as workers at enterprises of the meat-packing industry and seasonal branches of the food-processing industry during periods of massive processing of livestock and perishable agricultural raw materials. Pension recipients receiving a pension for years of service and who are members of kolkhozes shall be paid the full pension amount, regardless of income received from the kolkhoz.

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ACTIONS TAKEN ON SERVICEMEN'S COMPLAINTS

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 3, Mar 78 signed to press 20 Feb 78 p 40

[Unattributed article: "Although the Letter Was not Printed"]

[Text] Private Voroshko wrote a letter to the editors in which he stated that certain personnel of his unit, who are not Military Motor Vehicle Inspection inspectors, were punching driver's license warning citation coupons without authority or justification. Engr-Maj Gen I. Grigor'yev replied to the editors' inquiry, stating that an inquiry had confirmed the facts laid out in Private Voroshko's letter. An administrative investigation was conducted in the unit, and the guilty parties were disciplined. Guideline documents were restudied by all officers, warrant officers and drivers in the unit in order to prevent future illegal actions of this kind.

Warrant Officer A. Lyashenko stated in a letter that pay had been withheld from him for alleged missing boatswain's equipment, a decision with which he took issue. His appeals through the chain of command were without result. This letter was forwarded to the judge advocate's office of the Red-Banner Northern Fleet. Maj Gen Justice M. Guzeyev informed the editors that an investigation indicated that Warrant Officer Lyashenko had been adjudged guilty without sufficient foundation, since the commission which had handled the Warrant Officer Lyashenko case had inventoried equipment only in stores, while it had failed to check gear in the cabins. No administrative investigation of the shortage was conducted.

Instructions were issued to take a thorough inventory of all boatswain's stores and, if a shortage in fact turned up, an administrative investigation was to be held, for the purpose of determining the specific individuals responsible for the loss, with a decision to be reached in conformity with the law.

Pvt A. Tayurskiy wrote a letter to the editors of this magazine complaining about a military motor vehicle inspection representative who had taken away his driver's license and refused to return it. We received no reply from the military unit to which we sent an inquiry and a request to investigate this incident, and we therefore contacted the political directorate of the Red-Banner Far Eastern Military District.

The reply we received from Maj Gen A. Shirinkin, first deputy chief of the district political directorate, stated that officer Frolov had taken Private Tayurskiy's license and subsequently lost it. Officer Mezentsev had been instructed to investigate the complaint of the military driver, forwarded to the unit from the editor, but Mezentsev had failed to investigate and had failed to reply to the editors. Disciplinary punishment was imposed on Frolov and Mezentsev. Since Private Tayurskiy had already been discharged into the reserves by this time, all documents required for him to receive a duplicate driver's license were forwarded to his place of residence.

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NEED FOR VIGILANCE BY MILITARY PERSONNEL EMPHASIZED

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 4, Apr 78 signed to press 22 Mar 78 pp 30-31

[Article by Col of Justice I. Kapinos and Col (Res) N. Kochubey: "Vigilance--Always and Everywhere"]

[Text] Vigilance has always had special importance in military matters. They correctly say among the people that bravery captures cities but vigilance protects them. However, at no time has the importance of vigilance been so high as at the present time. International imperialism is making desperate attempts to delay the irreversible process of the revolutionary renewal of the world. The aggressiveness of the forces of world reaction who along with military preparations are directing ever greater efforts towards subversive political and ideological operations against the socialist countries, especially against the Soviet Union, is growing.

Therefore, no matter where Soviet fighting men are serving, no matter what post they are at, no matter what task they are performing, they must always be vigilant everywhere.

Under army and navy conditions vigilance is not an abstract concept but a completely concrete one. The vigilance of fighting men is displayed primarily in their constant readiness to come forward to defend the borders and state interests of the socialist motherland and in their ability to strictly preserve military and state secrets. To be always on one's guard and at a constant combat readiness which guarantees an immediate rebuff to any aggressor--this is the task which has been assigned to our armed forces by the CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet government.

New combat systems which were formerly unknown in their power are now in the armament of the army and navy. This means that the volume of information which forms military and state secrets has now grown considerably. One should not forget that each serviceman, regardless of what sector he is serving in, has a certain amount of information not subject to disclosure which enemy intelligence hunts for. Even the grains of this information dropped in

casual conversation or obtained from soldiers' letters, notebooks with service notations, photographs taken against the background of a military installation, and separate information overheard on the telephone or intercepted during radio broadcasts can be used by enemy agents.

Each soldier must know that information which in some way can give an idea of the combat capabilities, combat readiness and dispositions of our forces is a military secret. It is always necessary to keep in mind that spies have a lot of interest. They try to obtain information about especially important and secret installations; organizations; the numerical strength of troop units, ships and subunits; their armament; the nature of the tasks being performed or facing them; and the status of morale, discipline and the material and technical support of the troops. They also try to obtain servicemen's documents and many other items. After gathering fragmentary information and individual facts, spies summarize and analyze them to discover secrets.

However, the high vigilance of Soviet fighting men and their ability to keep the secrets entrusted to them disrupt the plans of foreign intelligence. The perfidious contrivances and intrigues of enemy scouts are failing thanks to the high political maturity, ideological conviction and strong military discipline of the personnel in the Soviet armed forces.

Quite a few examples are known where Soviet fighting men preferred to die and did not divulge secrets to the enemy. Pvt Yuriy Smirnov performed an immortal feat during the Great Patriotic War. He was seriously wounded in battle and was captured by the fascists. In trying to find out information needed by them, the Hitlerites subjected him to brutal torture. The ardent patriot of his motherland courageously withstood every torment and did not divulge any military secrets to the enemy. When our forces kicked the Hitlerites out of the positions occupied by them, the body of Yuriy Smirnov was found crucified on a wall in one of the enemy dugouts. Here were his Komsomol card and a record of the interrogation which the Hitlerite officers had conducted. Under each question on the interrogation record was written: "He is silent!" For this feat Yuriy Smirnov was awarded the title, Hero of the Soviet Union, posthumously.

Today's army and navy life is also filled with numerous examples which prove the high vigilance of our fighting men. However, individual cases of dulled vigilance are unfortunately encountered among servicemen. At times, some of them discuss service subjects in various public places and write things they are not supposed to in letters to friends and relatives. It is no accident that spies search for a gossiper because it is easiest of all to find secrets from them. It is not said for nothing that a gossiper is the windfall of spies. Pvt. D. Bol'ger was one of these gossipers. Having been transferred from one unit to another he, desiring to show his new colleagues his knowledge began to talk about the nature and mission of the unit where he served before. He was punished for this.

It is necessary to keep in mind that the maintenance of vigilance is not simply a slogan or a good wish but one of the most important duties prescribed in the military oath and regulations. To carry it out accurately and strictly is the duty of each serviceman. Persons who divulge military and state secrets are made strictly answerable because in accordance with Soviet legislation this is a criminal offense.

The law on criminal responsibility for state crimes provides that the divulging of information which is a state secret by a person to whom this information has been entrusted or became known because of service or work, in the absence of evidence of treason to the motherland or espionage, is punishable by loss of freedom for a period of two to five years and if these actions involved grave consequences--by loss of freedom for a period of five to eight years.

The divulging of information of a military nature which is a state secret, in the absence of evidence of treason to the motherland, falls under the law of criminal responsibility for military crimes and is punished by loss of freedom for a period of two to five years and if this divulging involved grave consequences--by loss of freedom for a period of five to ten years.

Servicemen who divulge military information which is not a state secret but which is not subject to publication also bear criminal responsibility. Those guilty of this are punished by being deprived of their freedom for a period of three months to one year.

The danger of divulging military secrets grows if a serviceman is intoxicated. A drunken individual loses control over himself and the sense of responsibility for his actions deserts him. Thus, serviceman M. Kuz'minykh who was in the apartment of strangers in an intoxicated condition and wishing to boast about his knowledge divulged top secret information of a military nature. During the investigation it turned out that Kuz'minykh had also divulged top secret information before during a conversation with civilians. One should not fail to point out that he learned part of this information from conversations with his colleagues. Kuz'minykh was made answerable in accordance with the law.

People who have a careless regard for the preservation and protection of secret and top secret documents inflict serious damage on the interests of the motherland. The slightest deviation from prescribed rules for handling them can lead to the divulging of military secrets. Spies hunt with great zeal for any documents from which it is possible to extract information about the Soviet armed forces. The law prescribes for the loss of a document through carelessness when it contains information which is a state secret the loss of freedom from one to three years and when there are grave consequences--up to ten years loss of freedom.

Not only official documents but also other material and publications, rough drafts and sketches and different instruments, mechanisms, and other classified items are state and military secrets. In order to constitute a crime it is not important whether the document or item is out of the possession of the serviceman for good or for a certain period of time since the document (item)

could have been in the possession of unauthorized persons and created a real opportunity for them to familiarize themselves with its content or construction.

The deliberate passing of a state or military secret to a foreign state by a citizen of the USSR, including servicemen, to the detriment of the state's dependence and territorial inviolability or military power of the USSR is treason to the motherland and is punishable as a very serious crime.

Vigilance is an inalienable feature of a Soviet fighting man. It is developed by all forms of political, legal and military indoctrination and by the entire tenor of military service. The work of instilling vigilance must be performed constantly, purposefully and in a composite manner throughout the training and work of fighting men from the first day of their arrival in a subunit.

The most important thing in instilling a spirit of constant vigilance in Soviet fighting men is the constant increase in their political maturity and ideological training. The solution of this task is abetted by well organized political classes; political information exchanges; discussions with the commander, political worker, and military lawyer; an explanation of Soviet laws and the requirements of the military oath and regulations about preserving military and state secrets; thematic visual agitation materials; watching movies; or discussing books which cast light on the intrigues of imperialist intelligence and the reactionary nature of bourgeois ideology. Primary attention must be devoted to individual work with the fighting men; to developing in them ideological conviction, self-discipline, self-control and a sense of responsibility for the security and defense of the socialist homeland; and to explaining to them the necessity to be vigilant always everywhere and in everything.

Much can and must be done by warrant officers, sergeants and master sergeants, who form the largest detachment of command personnel, to increase vigilance. Heading primary troop collectives and being the immediate chiefs of soldiers and sailors, they are with them on combat watch and during classes, on guard and duty details, during their leisure time, and while solving training and indoctrination tasks. Constant contact with the fighting men permits them to thoroughly study each one, to develop high moral and combat qualities in them and to instill patriotic strivings.

It is through junior commanders who are the closest assistants of officers that the orders and instructions which are intended to steadily improve discipline and regulation procedures and increase vigilance and combat readiness are implemented. They have been called upon to systematically explain to subordinates the requirements of Soviet laws and to see to their strict observance. It is especially important that all fighting men have a good knowledge of and thoroughly understand the fundamental law of our country--the Constitution of the USSR. This document points out a great political truth -- the defense of the socialist homeland is the sacred duty of each

citizen of the USSR and that military service in the ranks of the armed forces is the honorable duty of Soviet citizens.

Vigilance in the army and navy is an effective weapon. To increase it means to steadily raise the combat readiness of subunits, units and ships, to spread and strengthen order, organizational ability and discipline in every way possible, to teach how to recognize and intersect any intrigues of enemy intelligence, and to sacredly protect military and state secrets.

To maintain vigilance strictly, to keep it at the highest level--this is the patriotic and international duty of each Soviet fighting man.

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REPORTS OF ACTION TAKEN ON SERVICEMEN's COMPLAINTS

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 4, Apr 78 signed to press 22 Mar 78 p 37

[Article: "Although a Letter Has Not Been Written"]

[Text] Pvt A. Solov'yev turned to the editors with a report that his driver's license had been withdrawn and lost by officials of the military automobile inspectorate.

On the instructions of the judge advocate of the Red Banner Transcaucasus Military District to whom the editors had sent an inquiry, Major of Justice Isakov reported that the driver's license had been lost due to the fault of officer E. Tkachuka. For this he was disciplined. A request to help A. Solov'yev, who had been discharged into the reserves, obtain a duplicate driver's license was sent to the GAI [city automobile inspectorate] chief of the local affairs section of the city where Solov'yev is living.

* * *

When WO [Praporshchik] A. Mavlyutov left forces located abroad for a home military district a notation was not made in his records to the effect that he had not received the one time monetary award for uninterrupted service. As a result of this he was not paid this award at the new service location. Warrant officer Mavlyutov wrote to the editors about this.

Maj Gen Intend Serv S. Korennoy at our request has reported that the necessary information has been sent to Warrant officer Mavlyutov's new service location. WO P. Zinchenko, who was guilty of incorrectly filling out the service record has been disciplined.

* * *

WO [Michman] P. Ptukhin reported to the editors that he had been deprived of the qualification of a specialist first-class and the corresponding monetary allowance without the required justification for it. Having sent this letter

to the unit commander at the place where comrade Ptukhin is serving, the editors requested the substance of the question be investigated; however, they did not receive an answer within the prescribed time and turned to the political section of the Red Banner Caspian Flotilla. Capt 1st Rank A. Gadzhiyev's answer reported that Warrant Officer Ptukhin was on temporary duty when the examinations were taken for the rating. Upon his return to the unit he took the examinations, the rated qualification was restored to him and the monetary allowance was fully paid. The violation of the requirements in guidance documents about working with letters and the delay in answering the editors' letter occurred due to the fault of Sr Lt Yu. Kruglyakov who has been disciplined.

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COMMENTS ON NATO ANTITANK WEAPONS

Moscow ZNAMENOSETS in Russian No 4, Apr 78 signed to press 22 Mar 78 pp 38-39

[Article by Col A. Kol'tsov based on foreign press material: "The Antitank Weapons of the NATO Countries"]

[Text] The periodic military press of the major NATO countries has recently been marked by increased interest in questions on antitank combat and the development of antitank weapons and combat equipment. This is primarily explained by the significant growth in the ratio of armored combat vehicles in the ground forces of modern armies and the spread in imperialist circles of the myth of "Soviet tank armadas" which allegedly threaten the countries of Western Europe. The competition which has been spread between the monopolies for the receipt of fabulous profits from orders for antitank weapons and equipment plays no unimportant role.

Based on foreign military press material let us examine several types of antitank weapons and combat equipment which are being intently developed and which are in the armament of the major NATO countries. These are primarily ATGM's of various types, gun and missile and gun tanks, self-propelled and towed antitank and recoilless weapons, antitank grenades, and antitank mines.

The best prospective antitank weapons of the ground forces, based on the evaluations of foreign specialists, are ATGM's. At the present time second generation ATGM which have a guided range of 65 to 4000 meters are in the armament of the ground forces of NATO armies. Among these are the "TOW", "Dragon" and "Shillelagh" (United States); "Swingfire" (Great Britain); SS-11B1 and "Akra" (France); "HOT" and "Milan" (France and FRG). These ATGM are in the armament of the forces both as separate launch mounts and as mounts installed on helicopters, armored personnel carriers (BTR), infantry combat vehicles (BMP), tanks, and various vehicles.

At the present time, as the foreign press reports, strenuous work on creating third generation ATGM and more modern helicopters and self-propelled armored vehicles as carriers is being performed in many capitalist countries, especially in the United States, the FRG and France. These new ATGM in its estimation will possess more accurate homing guidance systems and a greater radius of action and capability to penetrate multi-layer armor.

The work of creating special self-propelled ATGM mounts began comparatively recently. Earlier these mounts were only carried or in the best of cases mounted on existing vehicles. In 1977, the first special vehicles--the "Striker" tank destroyer armed with "Swingfire" ATGM's began to arrive in the British and Belgian ground forces. The "Striker" amphibious tracked vehicle has a rear ATGM launch mount composed of five tracks. It can fire at armored targets while the vehicle is moving with tolerances of + or - 45 degrees from the axis and at an angle of 45 degrees. Minimum firing range is 150 meters and the maximum is 4000 meters. The mount is raised over the body of the vehicle only when the ATGM is launched; the remaining time it is completely fitted into the body which reminds one of a "Sultan" and "Spartan" BTR silhouette. The basic load has five reserve ATGM. The launching of a round can be accomplished both from within the vehicle and from a portable panel located 100 meters from it.

When considering the tactical and technical characteristics of the new "Striker" self-propelled mount, foreign specialists consider that it is capable of performing the following tasks: supporting reconnaissance units and subunits, protecting forces on the move and when they are occupying defensive lines, providing support during an attack and counterattack, and destroying tanks and BTR which have broken through.

Based on reports in the foreign press, the American forces located in Europe will begin to receive in the middle of 1978 new "TOW" ATGM self-propelled launch mounts mounted on the M113 A1 BRT. Each mechanized battalion will receive 22 vehicles, a tank battalion -- 4 and an armored cavalry squadron-- 18. All told about 2000 mounts will be manufactured for U.S. ground forces. The new self-propelled mount is equipped with a twin sliding track with three sights (a standard daytime one, an AN/TAS-4 infrared nighttime one, and a wide-angle search one). The track, the sights and the transmitting system from the sights are protected by armor. The mount has a 360-degree traverse. There are ten spare ATGM inside the vehicle. Re-loading is accomplished from inside the vehicle. The maximum range of guided flight is equal to 3000 meters.

Several "HOT" and "Milan" ATGM self-propelled mounts have been created in France. One of them the "HOT" AMX-10 BMP with four tracks mounted on the sides of the turret has a 360-degree traverse. However, re-loading is accomplished from the outside. The vehicle's basic load consists of 14-16 "HOT" ATGM. The vehicle is equipped with modern sighting systems, including a laser one. The French wheeled amphibious VAB BTR has four tracks for "HOT" or "Milan" ATGM with a 360-degree traverse and the "Mephisto" BTR has four sliding tracks for the "HOT" ATGM. Moreover, France has an opened tracked vehicle with "Milan" ATGM mounts.

The "Marder" BMP and the M113 BTR armed with "HOT" ATGM are used in the FRG as self-propelled ATGM launch mounts.

As experience from the 1973 Arab-Israeli War has shown one of the best prospective tank destroyers is a helicopter gunship armed with ATGM. The majority of NATO country armies use for this purpose the American produced

AHIS helicopter gunship, Huey Cobra, which can carry eight ATGM and destroy moving armored targets from a distance of more than 3000 meters.

Based on foreign press reports, a new all-weather military helicopter, the UAN-64, which can carry up to 16 "Hellfire" ATCM with a laser homing head is being developed in accordance with an AAS [American Academy of Science] program. It is planned to issue more than 500 of these helicopters to U. S. ground forces.

Multipurpose helicopters are used in other NATO countries as ATGM carriers: the Vo 105C helicopter which is armed with six "HOT" ATGM in the FRG and the "Lynx" helicopter capable of carrying eight "TOW" or "HOT" ATGM in Great Britain. In the future, the FRG and Great Britain plan to build the all-weather P277 helicopter which will be equipped with night sighting devices and be capable of carrying eight "HOT" ATGM.

Foreign military specialists consider the use of aircraft to combat tanks to be a prospect. In doing this, aircraft will effectively use their missile and gun armament and "Maverick" bombs homing on reflected laser beams. Ground force direct support aircraft can carry these bombs. They are equipped with night vision devices and sights in order to search for targets and to bomb them accurately.

Foreign specialist in the field of antitank weapons think that tanks and antitank weapons will henceforth play an important role in the struggle against armored targets because their capabilities have grown significantly in connection with their equipping with the latest range finders, electronic and ballistic calculators, night sights, and the increase in their rate and accuracy of fire. The so-called tanks of the 1980's--the XM-1, the "Leopard-2A", the TAM, etc.--answer all these requirements most fully.

However, the most numerous antitank system in the ground forces of the NATO countries continues to be antitank grenade launchers with a caliber of 60 to 90 mm and with a range of 150 to 500 meters. Using this basic antitank weapon infantrymen can destroy tanks, BMP, and BTR. The latest models do not produce any noise and do not give themselves away by an arrow of smoke or flame when fired. Further improvement is taking place along the lines of increasing firing range, improving accuracy in hitting a target and armor penetration capability and decreasing weight and size.

An important place in the plans of the NATO command is also allotted to traditional systems for combating tanks--mines and land mines which have undergone great changes during recent years. Their weight and size have been significantly decreased and their destructive radius increased. The equipment for laying mines which is now performed with the help of machines and by means of remote laying of mines from aircraft, helicopters, rockets, and shells has also changed. For example the "Lars" 36-tube multiple rocket launcher, each of whose rounds can carry six antitank mines is used to lay mines.

New tactical concepts for combating tanks are constantly being devised and incorporated into troop combat training practices along with the work

of creating and improving antitank weapons in the NATO countries. In doing this, special attention is directed to the combined and mass use of all antitank forces and equipment and to the organization of accurate coordination between them.

* * *

The reasons for the noises made in the foreign military press "About the superiority of the Soviet Union and the countries of the socialist commonwealth in tanks" is understandable. Having taken refuge in the myth of "the Soviet military threat" and having profiteered from their own "weakness", the military leadership of NATO is trying to justify the measures being conducted in the NATO country armies to rearm them and to saturate them with antitank weapons. All this requires from our fighting men a thorough and critical study of the military preparations being conducted in the capitalist countries and the improvement of their professional skill in every way possible.

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SEMINAR ON CULTURAL SPONSORSHIP OF ARMED FORCES

Tallin SOVETSKAYA ESTONIYA in Russian 20 Apr 78 p 3

Article: "Cultural Workers -- to Soviet Servicemen"

Text The voluntary assistance provided by the cultural workers of our country to our servicemen has become an important way of strengthening unity in the USSR armed forces and among all the Soviet people, as well as a real factor in improving the training efficiency of our defenders. Last year alone more than 1.8 million cultural undertakings were conducted in units and sub-units. The All-Union Zonal Conference-Seminar on Cultural Sponsorship in the USSR Armed Forces which began 19 April in Tallin is discussing this matter.

The chairman of the Central Committee of the Cultural Workers' Trade Union M. Pashkov opened the seminar.

Secretary of the Central Committee of the Estonian Communist Party A. Ryuytel' welcomed those attending the seminar on behalf of the the Central Committee of the Estonian Communist Party.

The remarkable success achieved through the foreign policy of the CPSU, where the Soviet people have been able to live and work in a peaceful environment for over 30 years, he said, is a historical fact. The Soviet people heartily approve of and unanimously support the efforts of the Central Committee CPSU, the Politburo of the Central Committee, and L. I. Brezhnev, himself, directed at averting war and strengthening peace and international security. At the same time the Soviet people recognize that it is their sacred duty to remain extremely vigilant toward the scheming of imperialist circles. They consistently adhere to the by-law of the USSR Constitution binding them to remain on a path toward a strong defense for the country, and they show great concern for our glorious armed forces. The intensification and strengthening of voluntary assistance ties with large units and units of the Soviet army, navy and border forces are an indication of their continued concern. Here cultural assistance, which is employed to improve the political thinking and morale in Soviet servicemen, to evoke a new influx of energy in them, and to impart added strength for enduring their difficult military tour, has considerable significance.

Actors, musicians, groups of amateur performers, and masters of literature and art have always been welcome guests among Soviet servicemen. During the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the formation of the Soviet armed forces, a unique review of our achievements in the field of voluntary cultural efforts for military units was conducted. Of course, the achievements are encouraging. But there is still room for improvement in the area of developing and expanding voluntary efforts of cultural workers among Soviet servicemen. The seminar begun today will help to outline new ways and means for further promoting voluntary cultural activities within the armed forces of our country.

Chairman of the Central Commission on Cultural Sponsorship in the USSR Armed Forces, people's artist of the USSR, and Hero of Socialist Labor Ye. Gogoleva reported on the tasks of the trade union committees and cultural-sponsorship commissions of artistic groups, unions and societies for the further improvement of cultural-sponsorship work in light of the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and the 16th USSR Trade Union Congress. Chief of the Cultural Department of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy Major General V. Anikovich spoke on improving various forms and methods used in voluntary cultural work among the troops based on experience accumulated during preparations for and celebration of the 60th anniversary of the October revolution and Soviet armed forces.

Activists in voluntary cultural work from the Ukraine, Belorussia, Lithuania, Latvia, Armenia, Estonia and a number of RSFSR oblasts, as well as representatives of political organs of the Soviet army and navy, are taking part in the seminar.

Heads of departments of the Central Committee of the Estonian Communist Party P. Vasikov and O. Utt', secretary of the Estonian republic council of trade unions Yu. Ul'fsak, minister of culture of the Estonian SSR Yu. Yurna, and others are attending the seminar.

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REPLIES TO VETERANS' REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

Moscow EKONOMICHESKAYA GAZETA in Russian No 20, May 78 signed to press
10 May 78 p 16

Article: "Department of the Ministry of Defense USSR Answers the Questions of War Veterans"

Text Decades have passed since Victory Day. In their present jobs our veterans of the Great Patriotic War are adding to the wealth and glory of our country. On the eve of Victory Day the editors received a number of letters from readers who fought in the war. We are publishing answers to some of them here.

A question from V. Samsonov in Kuybyshev: "Are replacements for USSR orders and medals issued in case of their loss?"

As a rule, duplicate USSR orders and medals are not issued (in case of loss or theft). The exception is, if the were lost under combat conditions, during natural catastrophes, and under other circumstances where the person receiving the award was not able to look after it. In this instance replacement awards are issued by decree from the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet USSR (on petition from the appropriate organizations).

Replacements for medals established for the defense, capture and liberation of cities, "For Victory over Germany in the Great Patriotic War 1941-1945" and "For Victory over Japan," "For Valiant Work in the Great Patriotic War 1941-1945," "For Exceptional Service" and jubilee medals, as well as duplicate certificates for them, are not issued.

A question from K. Borodin of Penza: "To whom must one go in order to obtain documentation verifying the fact that one was wounded or suffered from shell-shock at the front and received medical treatment at a military hospital during the Great Patriotic War?"

For verification of a wound, shell-shock condition, or illness for which a former serviceman was treated in hospitals and medical battalions one must

contact the Military-Medical Museum of the Ministry of Defense USSR (Leningrad, Lazaretnyy pereulok, 2), where historical health records and other materials from military hospitals and various military-medical facilities are stored. In order to accelerate the search for records and avoid the possibility of mistakes, the request to the museum records department ought to be made through the local draft board at one's permanent place of residence. The board has a special form for handling this request.

The basic documents which the museum records department uses for its information are the records of the hospital in which the wounded (ill) person concluded his treatment for the specific wound (illness). Therefore it is necessary to include the number of the hospital on the request form. If this number has been forgotten by the veteran, then it is advisable to report the hospital field post-office number or its location: oblast, city, town or other settlement, street name, and indicate which building housed the hospital, or other amplifying data.

It should be kept in mind that the number of the hospital can be obtained through a request to the draft board of the city or rayon in which the hospital was located, or through friends with whom one recuperated or former hospital employees.

If, despite a properly filled-out request form, the records department of the Military-Medical Museum cannot locate the necessary documents, the veteran should contact (through his local draft board) the appropriate records office where he can obtain documents which indirectly confirm his injury (illness). For example, such documents include those providing information about departure from a unit due to the wound (illness), about removal from rations for this reason, about arrival back at a unit after being wounded or medical treatment, as well as combat records and submissions for wounded-in-action decorations, etc. (this information is considered by medical boards together with other data when necessary).

Testimony concerning a wound, injury or sickness, as a rule, cannot be the basis for determining the causes of a developing disability. Evidence of direct superiors or a physicians of the medical facility treating a veteran can be taken into consideration (only in certain exceptional cases and in conjunction with other records which indirectly verify an actual wound or illness). (This applies to those people who were discharged from the armed forces for health reasons, and were declared only partially fit for duty by medical boards or required leave due to illness during their period of military service.)

A shell-shock condition must be verified by medical documents only.

A question from F. Saprykin of Voronezh: "What personal material benefits are available to war veterans?"

In addition to the earlier established benefits for disabled veterans of the Great Patriotic War in connection with the 30th anniversary of our victory,

the party and government signed a decree covering the granting of new benefits to disabled war veterans which greatly improved their personal material benefits.

Specifically, living accommodations (within the norms specified by existing legislation), used by disabled veterans of the Great Patriotic War in the first and second groups and members of their families, as well as by families who receive a pension following the death of the head of household, are 50 percent paid for, calculated on rates established for workers and employees. These people are also allowed a 50 percent discount on established charges for heat, water, gas and electricity use. Extra living accommodations (up to 15 square meters) used by these disabled veterans and their families are paid at a single rate.

Medicine prescribed by physicians for war veterans is free. Union republic councils of ministers have been instructed to take steps to improve medical services to disabled war veterans and provide them with prosthetic and orthopedic devices.

Free travel on all types of urban transportation (excluding taxis) was granted disabled war veterans of the first and second groups, as well as veterans of the third group who have lost a limb, in previous legislation. Now this privilege has been granted to all disabled veterans of the Patriotic War. Also, all disabled war veterans are able to ride free on public motor vehicle transportation systems (excluding taxis) in rural areas within the limits of the administrative rayon in which they live.

The providing of disabled war veterans with free Zaporozhets motor vehicles has been significantly improved, as well as pension provisions.

A question from N. Pogorelov in Ul'yanovsk: "How much vacation time do disabled war veterans who work receive?"

A six-hour work day and an annual vacation totalling 24 work days for all disabled veterans of the first and second groups who work in enterprises, shops and areas designated for using disabled help have been introduced by a decree of the Council of Ministers USSR. In addition, at their request these disabled persons can be granted leave without pay for up to two months. Disabled people in the third group who work in these same enterprises, shops and areas, as well as disabled people in the first and second groups who work at home, are granted an annual vacation of 18 work days.

Disabled war veterans of the first and second groups in eyesight, who work at state enterprises, are able to take a total of 24 work days of vacation annually.

The remaining disabled war veterans are granted an annual vacation on the basis used for other workers and employees (not disabled).

The decree of the Central Committee CPSU and Council of Ministers USSR covering increased personal material benefits for disabled veterans of the Patriotic War and families of deceased servicemen stipulates: in case there is insufficient regular and extra leave time for medical treatment and travel to and from sanatoriums, employed disabled war veterans of the first and second groups are issued a medical certificate for the necessary number of days (depending on who grants the pass and its cost). Employed disabled war veterans of the third group (except patients with an active case of tuberculosis) are issued a medical certificate when there is insufficient leave for sanatorium-resort treatment and travel, if the pass to the sanatorium is issued free by a trade union or upon payment of 30 percent of its cost. The medical certificate is completely paid for when the disabled war veterans are members of trade unions.

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HISTORY, ACHIEVEMENTS OF TURKESTAN MILITARY DISTRICT REVIEWED

Ashkhabad TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA in Russian 4 May 78 p 3

[Article by Lt Gen V. S. Rodin, member of the Military Council and chief of the Political Directorate of the Red Banner Turkestan Military District: "On Guard for the Victories of October"]

[Text] The 60th anniversary of the Red Banner Turkestan Military District has fallen in a significant period. The Soviet people, in carrying out the historic decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and in being guided by the provisions of the new USSR Constitution, are constantly struggling to fulfill and overfulfill the grandiose plans of the 10th Five-Year Plan. The Soviet people are working peacefully. But, as was pointed out during the recent visit of the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and the Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev, to the Pacific Fleet, both to the west and to the east of our frontiers there are forces which are interested in an arms race and in intensifying an atmosphere of fear and hostility.

During his trip through the regions of Siberia and the Far East, in meeting with soldiers, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev gave specific instructions to the armed defenders of the motherland: Improve your military skills, your combat abilities, improve political training and with honor carry the colors of the Soviet Armed Forces.

The troops of the Red Banner Turkestan Military District, as an inseparable part of the Soviet Armed Forces, are sacredly carrying out this order, their patriotic duty to the motherland. Today we can look back with pride over the past path of struggle and victories.

The young Turkestan Soviet Republic, from the first days of its existence, had to defend the victories of October in a stubborn struggle. It was at first surrounded by four fronts, the Northern, Transcaspian, Fergana and Semirech'ye. The forces of the internal counterrevolution were intensifying their hostile actions.

In surmounting enormous difficulties, the Bolsheviks of Turkestan, in being guided by the instructions of the Party Central Committee and personally of

V. I. Lenin, and in relying on the economic and military aid through the peoples of Central Asia by the great Russian people, were able to defend Soviet power in Turkestan.

On 14 August 1919, the Party Central Committee approved a decision to set up the Turkestan Front. M. V. Frunze was appointed the commander of the front, and V. V. Kuybyshev was the member of the RVS [Revolutionary Military Council]. The front was confronted with the mission of defeating the southern Kolchak army, the Orenburg and Urals White Cossack armies and eliminating the forces of the internal and external counterrevolution on the territory of Turkestan. The success of the armed struggle depended largely upon the correct solution to the nationality question.

V. I. Lenin, in his appeal to the communists of Turkestan, emphasized that the establishment of correct relations with the peoples of Turkestan was of gigantic significance, it could be said without exaggeration, of world historical significance, for the RSFSR. Upon the initiative of V. I. Lenin on 8 October 1919, the Central Committee of the RKP(b) [Russian Communist Party (Bolshevik)] and the SNK [Council of People's Commissars] approved a decision to send to Central Asia a commission of the VTsIK [All-Russian Central Executive Committee] and the SNK of the RSFSR for the affairs of Turkestan with a membership including Sh. E. Eliav (chairman), M. V. Frunze, V. V. Kuybyshev, G. I. Bokiy, F. I. Goloshchekin and Ya. E. Rudzutak. It carried out extensive party political work to mobilize the working masses for a final defeat of the counterrevolution.

The Turkestan Front provided inestimable aid to the workers of Central Asia in eliminating the despotic regimes of emirs, khans and beys. During the years of the Civil War and in the struggle against the Basmatch troops such prominent military leaders as M. V. Frunze, P. Ye. Dybenko and I. R. Apanasenko directed the battles and indoctrinated the Red Armymen in Turkestan. Here I. Ye. Petrov, A. A. Luchinskiy, S. P. Timoshkov, N. A. Shaydakov, N. G. Lyashenko and many others developed as commanders.

During the following years of peacetime training, the district troops took an active part in strengthening the local bodies of Soviet power, and helped the workers of the Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan in organizing the national economy. Hundreds of Red Armymen, commanders and commissars were members of the local soviets and conducted political and indoctrinal work among the population.

However the military training of the soldiers and the creative labor of the Soviet people were interrupted on 22 June 1941 by the treacherous attack of Nazi Germany on our motherland.

As throughout our entire nation, a strong wave of hate for the enemy and a patriotic desire to defend the socialist fatherland arose in the Central Asian republics and in Kazakhstan.

In our district, scores of formations, units and march subunits were made up and these were sent to fight the Nazi invaders. These included the famous 316th Panfilov Division the 83d Mountain Rifle Division which were well known on the fronts and won the title of Guards in combat, the 17th Rifle Division which became the Red Banner and Order of Lenin Guards Division, the 69th Red Banner Rifle Division which produced 70 Heroes of the Soviet Union for the motherland, two cavalry divisions and two separate rifle brigades which were organized directly in Turkestan, and so forth. The 83d Turkestan Mountain Rifle Division under the command of A. A. Luchinskiy fought actively in the Caucasus.

As a total during the years of the Great Patriotic War, 821 Turkestan soldiers received the title of Hero of the Soviet Union, and 6 Turkestan pilots received this title twice. These were I. Pavlov, K. Yevstigneyev, Amet-khan Sultan, T. Begel'dinov, L. Beda and S. Luganskiy. Twelve formations from the district received the title of guards, and more than 20 formations from the district received honorary names.

The names of 15 Turkestan heroes have been inscribed in perpetuity on the rolls of the present units and subunits of the district. Their feat calls the younger generation of soldiers to military service for the sake of the happiness and safety of the motherland.

The Turkestan soldiers, like all our army, in fighting for the freedom and independence of the motherland, have constantly felt the support and aid of the Soviet people. The workers of the Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan have sent to the army their finest sons who have done glory to their names. Some 104 representatives of Soviet Turkmenistan received the title of Hero of the Soviet Union for courage and valor shown in the battles against the Nazi invaders. The names of T. Redzhepov, K. Durda, A. Atayev and others are known by the entire nation.

After the victorious end of the Great Patriotic War, a reorganization was carried out in the district troops, and this provided normal conditions for their postwar activities. The personnel of all the branches of troops began to study industriously the new types of weapons and military equipment which were being received, and to learn to use them effectively in all types of combat.

In adopting combat experience and in equaling the feats of their fathers and elder brothers, the men of the district did everything to maintain the combat readiness of their units and subunits on a proper level and to add to the military glory of the Turkestan heroes.

The friendship of the men from the district with the workers of Turkmenistan was immeasurably strengthened and tempered. The Central Committee of the Turkmenistan Communist Party, the Republic Government, the command and the political bodies of the district formations and units were also constantly concerned with strengthening this friendship.

In 1968, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy, our district was awarded the Order of the Red Banner for a great contribution to strengthening the defense might of the Soviet state and its armed defense, and for successes in military and political training.

In August 1969, important changes occurred in the life of the Turkestan troops. On the basis of the Turkestan military district, two districts were created: the Turkestan within the frontiers of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, and the Central Asian within Kazakhstan, Tadzhikistan and Kirgizia.

The new missions confronting the district troops predetermined the subsequent nature of their combat training activities and service, as well as the focus of party political work with the personnel. The attention of the district command, the commanders, the political bodies, the staffs, the party and Komsomol organizations and all the men was concentrated on ensuring the security of the southern frontiers of the motherland and on further raising combat readiness.

The district Military Council skillfully directed the noble aspirations of the soldiers, sergeants and officers to celebrate the centennial birthday of V. I. Lenin with excellent and good indicators in military and political training. As a result, the initiator of the competition, X helicopter unit, became outstanding and was awarded the Lenin Jubilee Honorary Diploma. High governmental decorations were also received by other units. In 1970, one out of every three men in the district had become an outstanding man in military and political training. And in the following 4 years, more than 3,000 district servicemen received orders and medals.

A significant date for us was the 30th anniversary of the victory of the Soviet people over Naziism. The Turkestan soldiers together with the workers of the republic participated in parades around the monuments and obelisks, and laid wreaths on the fraternal graves and at the Eternal Flame burning in the sacred burying areas for heroes who had fallen for the motherland. Upon the initiative of the local party and soviet bodies and with the active participation of servicemen from the district, hundreds of new monuments were established to war heroes, and museums were opened.

In carrying out the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and the requirements of other party documents, the commanders, political bodies and party organizations have begun in a more able and consistent manner to carry out the missions of raising the combat readiness of the troops and the ideological and political indoctrination of the personnel.

At present the life of the Komsomol members and the army youth is full of interesting affairs and great concerns. In the district 75 percent of the personnel is Komsomol members. The district Komsomol organizations are successfully carrying out the missions of the communist indoctrination of the youth in a spirit of love for the motherland and loyalty to their patriotic, international duty.

Our men gain strength and inspiration in combat training and service in close friendship with the workers of Turkmenistan; this friendship grows stronger and broader day by day. The republic leaders, the representatives of the party, soviet and Komsomol organizations, the scientists, writers and artists, and advanced production workers often visit the troop units, and inform their personnel of successes in communist construction.

In turn, the troops visit the plants and factories, the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, and the schools, and inform the workers of the patriotic initiatives of the troops and their achievements in military and political training. They show a vital interest in the successes in the development of the economy, science, technology and culture.

And these successes are truly fabulous. From a one-time most backward forgotten borderland of Tsarist Russia, Turkmenistan has been turned into a rich, flourishing Soviet republic with a highly developed industry and with a powerful agriculture. At present Turkmen industry is represented by 80 modern sectors. The industrial appearance of the republic is determined by power engineering, the chemical, petroleum, gas, machine building, textile, light and food industries and the building materials industry. Due to carrying out Lenin's cooperative plan, republic agriculture has been transformed.

1977 was the year of the 60th anniversary of Great October. The district troops, having developed a socialist competition to properly celebrate this significant date, worked tenaciously at fulfilling the tasks posed by the 25th CPSU Congress, and attained high results.

The military glory of the older generations, in being multiplied by the men in their daily military training and service, inspires them to achieve new heights of military skill and to even more zealous service of the socialist fatherland and the Soviet people.

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PUBLICATION OF THIRD EDITION OF ZHUKOV MEMOIRS ANNOUNCED

Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 7 May 78 p 4

[Review by A. Mirkina, senior scientific editor of the Publishing House of the Novosti Press Agency, of the Third Edition of "Vospominaniya i Razmyshleniya" (Remembrances and Reflections) by Mar SU G. K. Zhukov]

[Text] The third edition of the book by Mar SU G. K. Zhukov "Vospominaniya i Razmyshleniya" [Remembrances and Reflections] is being published. We feel that it would be interesting for the readers to know how this work was created and how the author worked on his memoirs.

In the foreword to the book in the foreign editions, G. K. Zhukov wrote: "I wanted to tell the truth about the war. I had to do this in memory of those who gave up their lives for the motherland in the battles against the Nazi invaders and for those millions of civilians who were the victim of Nazism. I was obliged to do this for those who were born after the war, in order that this was not repeated again! For to correctly understand the task means to facilitate the search for the right path in the future."

In 1958, when Mar Zhukov began thinking about the writing of his book, many works had already appeared devoted to World War II in the Western Military memoir literature. In a predominant majority of them, one could clearly trace the general trend of understating the role of the Soviet Armed Forces in the defeat of the Nazi armies and that indisputable authority which the Soviet Army had won among the peoples of the entire world by its liberating mission.

And a worthy answer had to be given to this. This circumstance caused Mar Zhukov to take to the pen.

"Vospominaniya i Razmyshleniya" was the first attempt at literature by Mar Zhukov. Prior to this he had appeared in print only in individual articles. When his work on his memoirs became known, several well-known literary figures offered their help. Possibly from the literary standpoint, the book would have benefited from this. But this would have been their work. The marshal understood this and refused the help.

Zhukov worked around 6 years, for 5-6 hours daily on the manuscript. During the last period, when the publishing house requested that a number of additions be made, he worked 10 hours a day. He did not like dictating, and he was obliged to write it out, since he felt that his thoughts could be better shaped and all extraneous matter removed.

Usually Zhukov worked in the evenings, from 0600 hours far after midnight. This was an old habit: service during the day, and in the evening the possibility of doing something for oneself. Moreover, for a number of years Zhukov devoted his morning hours to selecting documents for the book.

G. K. Zhukov regularly visited the Archives of the USSR Ministry of Defense. He studied the reports from the front and the wartime orders. He carefully and scrupulously selected the most valuable and important documents, he made rough notes and studied the materials on the actions of the fronts and the armies.

He read a great deal. On his desk were new books with bookmarks and notes, and these included military science, historical and political literature, memoirs, fiction, and works on economics and philosophy. The profound work on the book, the notations in the margins and the individual records which he kept in the process of reading were the "laboratory" in which Zhukov constantly broadened his knowledge, in quietly accumulating that fund of knowledge which he realized in creating "Vospominaniya i Razmyshleniya."

Unfortunately, the diary of G. K. Zhukov for 1940-1941 did not survive. But the notebooks which he kept during the war when he held the position of Deputy Supreme Commander-in-Chief did survive. His personal notes on the course of the major operations of the Great Patriotic War such as the Battle of Moscow and the Battle of Leningrad, the historic Battle of Stalingrad which turned the course of the war, the battles on the Kursk Bulge and the concluding Berlin Operation which ended with the total defeat of the Nazi Wehrmacht, served as the initial material for the book. Documents were a supplement to this vital outline. In the memoirs over 1,500 historical materials have been used.

Mar Zhukov possessed an exceptional memory for faces and names. For many years he remembered numerous people who had passed through his eventful life.

In preparing the second edition, the readers became the volunteer reviewers of the book of G. K. Zhukov. The author and the publishing house received several thousand letters during the 4 years between the first and second edition. Their authors were participants in the war, students, fellow servicemen of Zhukov's who served in different years under his command, military historians and young soldiers from the Soviet Army. The Soviet readers greatly valued the work of the author. They shared their memoirs, they clarified and proposed.

"Correct," "supplement," and "incorporate in the second edition." How many such comments were made in Zhukov's hand in the margins of letters from readers who viewed the book on the Patriotic War as their vital concern!

At first glance, the second edition of the book "Vospominaniya i Razmyshleniya" differs little from the first. In fact the text has been subjected to significant revisions and supplements. First of all, the author wrote three new chapters: "Headquarters of the Supreme High Command," "The Liquidation of the Yel'nya Enemy Salient," and "The Battle for Leningrad," and significantly revised the "Conclusion." In addition to this, new data and documents were incorporated in all the chapters of the book, and the descriptions of the various periods of the Great Patriotic War were broadened. The book increased in size and became two volumes.

G. K. Zhukov showed the same exactingness and thoughtfulness in selecting the illustrations as in working on the text. The dummies of both editions submitted to him were not accepted by the author immediately, and he changed the illustrations, moving them from column to column, and changing their format. On 23 April 1974, Mar Zhukov signed the form for the second edition. This was the last day that he held his labor of many years in his hands. Two months later, on 18 June, he was dead.

The years have passed. But the Soviet people and all progressive mankind will never forget the heroism and self-sacrifice of the Soviet soldiers during the years of the fierce struggle against the Nazi aggressors.

The book of Mar Zhukov which is appearing in a third edition with a foreword by Mar SU Aleksandr Mikhaylovich Vasilevskiy is a worthy monument to this.

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9TH VOLUME OF WORLD WAR II HISTORY REVIEWED

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 May 78 p 2

[Review by Gen Arm P. Batov, chairman of the Soviet War Veteran Committee, and Col V. Morozov, candidate of military sciences, of the 9th volume of "Istoriya Vtoroy Mirovoy Voyny 1939-1945" (History of World War II of 1939-1945); in 12 volumes; D. F. Ustinov, chairman of the Main Editorial Commission, and Deputy Chairman P. A. Zhilin, Ye. M. Zhukov, V. G. Kulikov, N. V. Ogarkov, and P. N. Fedoseyev. Volume 9. "The Liberation of the Territory of the USSR and European Nations. War in the Pacific and in Asia." Editor-in-Chief M. I. Semiryaga, Voyenizdat, 1978, 575 pages]

[Text] On the eve of the 33d anniversary of the victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War, the next book has been published in the multivolume scientific work "Istoriya Vtoroy Mirovoy Boyny 1939-1945" devoted to an examination of military-political events in the second half of 1944.

Acquaintance with the content of this volume provides reason to again speak of the successful solution to the main task of the fundamental publication undertaken in our nation, that is, to help readers in the USSR and abroad to more clearly understand the involved processes of World War II, and to extract from the experience of the past the necessary lessons for the present and future of mankind.

Among the basic questions raised for review and scientific analysis in the ninth volume are the questions related to completing the expulsion of the Nazi invaders from Soviet land and the restoring of the USSR state frontier, to the liberation of the peoples of Central and Southeastern Europe by the Soviet Armed Forces and with the participation of the forces of the national liberation movement, to the victory of people's democratic and socialist revolutions in a number of the liberated nations, to the opening of a second front in Western Europe by the Anglo-American Allies, and to the intensified struggle of the United States and Great Britain in the Pacific and Asia against the basic ally of Nazi Germany, militaristic Japan.

The central theme of the ninth volume is, undoubtedly, the great liberating mission of the Soviet Army the implementation of which was still another

vivid example of the consistent execution of Lenin's internationalist policy by the communist party and the Soviet government.

The book gives impressive data on the glorious feat of the Soviet Armed Forces. During June-December 1944, they conducted 11 major offensive operations which as an aggregate comprised one of the most effective offensive campaigns of World War II. As a result of the successfully executed summer-autumn campaign of 1944, the Soviet Army defeated 325 enemy divisions and 46 brigades (including 96 divisions and 24 brigades which were completely destroyed or captured). The total enemy losses were 1.6 million soldiers and officers.

In the course of the offensive, Soviet territory was cleared of occupiers with a total area of around 600,000 km² and on which around 20 million persons lived before the war. The territories of seven foreign countries were also liberated with an area up to 800,000 km², and where almost 35 million persons lived in 1937. During this liberation campaign beyond the frontiers of our motherland, Soviet soldiers expelled the enemy from Romania and Bulgaria and from portions of the territories of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Norway.

In noting the enormous and ever-increasing significance of the victories of the USSR and their influence on the further development of the struggle of the European and Asian peoples against fascism and militarism, the authors of the volume convincingly show that the victorious offensive of the Soviet Army and the struggle of the peoples for national and social liberation, in merging into a common powerful current, swept away the notorious "new order" which had been created by fascism in Europe, they destroyed the reactionary regimes in the occupied and Nazi-dependent nations, and opened up for the peoples of these nations the path to peace and social progress.

In the new work by Soviet historians, great attention is paid to an analysis of the sociopolitical processes occurring in the second half of 1944 in the nations of Central and Southeastern Europe.

For establishing historical truth which has been distorted by the bourgeois and revisionist "interpreters" of history who have falsified many aspects of the liberation mission of the Soviet Armed Forces, of important significance is the scientifically argued conclusion constructed on the basis of a profound analysis of factual material that the people's democratic and socialist revolutions in the nations of Central and Southeastern Europe were brought about by the matured internal demands of social development and by the necessity of carrying out fundamental socioeconomic and political transformations.

The victories of the Soviet Army which played the decisive role in freeing the peoples from Nazi slavery contributed to accelerating the revolutionary process in the liberated nations.

The pages of the volume relating how the communist parties, under the conditions of the powerful offensive by the Soviet Army which had dealt a crushing blow to the enemy, conducted active preparations and directly controlled the course of the antifascist armed insurrections are read with unflagging interest.

The victory of the revolutions in a number of nations of Central and South-eastern Europe, the authors of the volume conclude, comprised a new stage in the world revolutionary process, and it marked the creation and strengthening of world socialism and a further weakening of the forces of imperialism.

The volume soundly examines a large group of questions related to armed conflict in the various theaters of war, and it analyzes the development of the military arts of the basic states in the warring coalitions.

Widely examined is the development of events on the main, Soviet-German front of World War II the length of which was 4,500 km.

The strategic offensive of the Soviet Armed Forces as planned by the Headquarters of the Supreme High Command within one military campaign developed along the entire front from the Barents to the Black Sea.

In the campaign the main thrust was made in a zone of more than 1,600 km on the western axis by forces of troops from five fronts in the aim of defeating the enemy army groups Center and Northern Ukraine.

From 40 to 60 percent of all the forces and means of our army in the field was concentrated for making the main thrust. Here two sequential and inter-related major strategic operations, the Belorussian and L'vov-Sandomir, were carried out. The materials of the volume indicate that the successful conducting of both operations in June-August led to the defeat of the strongest groupings of the German Wehrmacht (a total of over 100 divisions), it put large groupings of enemy troops in the Baltic and Moldavia in a disadvantageous position, and also created favorable prerequisites for conducting offensive actions by the Soviet Army in 1945 on the Warsaw-Berlin and East Prussian axes.

In the volume interesting material is given on the Iasi-Kishinev Offensive Operation conducted in August 1944. This outstanding operation conducted in an original form--to surround large enemy forces--ended by the capturing of more than 200,000 men from the enemy grouping comprising the Army Group Southern Ukraine. The major defeat of the enemy at Iasi and Kishinev created decisive conditions for the success of the armed insurrection of the Romanian people who overthrew the hated fascist Antonescu regime. Romania withdrew from the fascist militaristic bloc and declared war on Germany.

The deep penetration of enemy defenses along a broad front opened up prospects for the Soviet forces to develop a rapid offensive deep into Romania, into Hungary and Bulgaria in the aim of making new strikes against the enemy and providing help to the Romanian, Bulgarian, Yugoslav, Hungarian and Czechoslovak peoples in their struggle for liberation from the fascist

occupiers. The corresponding chapters of the book acquaint the reader with such strategic operations of fraternal aid to the European peoples as the Eastern Carpathian, Belgrade, Debrecen, and Budapest campaigns, as well as the campaign of the Soviet Army into Bulgaria.

The volume contains much concrete material indicating the high level of Soviet military arts as manifested in the preparations for and execution of the 1944 summer and autumn offensive campaign, and above all such decisive operations in it as the Belorussian, L'vov-Sandomir and Iasi-Kishinev which have naturally become part of the treasure of Soviet military arts and have become classic operations of World War II.

The ninth volume contains extensive material on the military actions of the U.S. and British armed forces on other fronts of World War II. In particular, the volume with scientific objectivity, historical accuracy and soundness examines the Allied landing in Normandy, the largest landing operation of World War II, as well as the other major operations of the Anglo-American armies related to driving enemy troops out of Italy, France, Belgium, Luxembourg and a significant portion of the Netherlands. Of interest are the pages of the book telling of the armed struggle of our Allies in the Asian and Pacific theater.

In noting the positive results of the military actions of the U.S. and British armed forces in the second half of 1944, the authors of the volume correctly write that their military successes could have been even more significant if the governments of these Allied states had consistently adhered to the coalition strategy worked out jointly with the USSR, and had more widely supported the Resistance movement in Europe and the national liberation struggle of the Asian peoples.

The new work by Soviet historians provides a well argued critique of the false concepts of bourgeois historiography on the military events in the second half of 1944. In particular, the complete baselessness is shown in the attempts by certain Western historians who represent the landing of Allied forces in Normandy as a "triumphant victory" and at the same time to play down the significance of the outstanding victories won by the Soviet Army during that period of the war for its course and outcome.

The volume has given a significant place to examining economic problems, to an analysis of foreign policy and the international relations of the main belligerents, and to the problems of the postwar organization of the world.

As in the previously published volumes of "Istoriya Vtoroy Mirovoy Voyny 1939-1945" the ninth volume thoroughly discloses the diverse activities of the CPSU. The materials of the volume clearly show how, in line with the new complex tasks of conducting the war and which confronted the fighting Soviet nation during this period, the role of the Leninist party and its Central Committee rose in directing the armed struggle of our people, the development of the economy, ideological work and foreign policy.

During the described period, as before, a central place in the military organizational activities of the party was held by the leadership of the armed struggle, as this comprised the main sphere of the war, where the questions of politics, military strategy and economy were most closely intertwined.

A most important component part in the activities of the party was the mobilizing and organizing of all the workers in the rear to struggle for a further rise in the military economy, and to provide on an ever increasing scale for the output of new types of military equipment and weapons, ammunition and other military materiel.

The communist party carried out enormous organizational work to rebuild the national economy in the liberated regions.

Many materials of the volume show that due to the leadership of the party and to the labor heroism of the working class, the kolkhoz peasantry, the intelligentsia and all the workers of the rear, the economy of the nation provided everything necessary for the successful conduct of the enormous-scaled military operations in the second half of 1944.

Using extensive documentary material, the volume discloses the heroic feats of the Soviet people on the front and in the rear, as well as the vanguard role of the communists in the national struggle against the enemy.

The pages of the volume mention the names of many loyal sons of the party who by their passionate word and personal example led the broad masses to military and labor feats. Among them was Comrade L. I. Brezhnev who at that time held the position of chief of the political department of the 18th Army and who in the autumn of 1944 participated in the Eastern Carpathian Operation.

The fundamental work by Soviet scholars again affirms that the undying feat of the Soviet people and their Armed Forces who won a historic victory over fascism is convincing proof of the insuperable force of socialism, and of the Soviet state and social system.

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